

Heartland Genealogy Blog Posts Jan-Feb 2025

Marcia Crawford Philbrick

<https://heartlandgenealogy.org>

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Table of Contents

[Goal Setting](#)
[How to Access BIRLS Files for Free](#)
[Friday Find](#)
[WWI War News](#)
[Saturday Night Genealogy Fun](#)
[Writing Assistant](#)
[My Genealogy Journey Beginnings](#)
[WW2 War News](#)
[New Family Tree Feature](#)
[Bloggng with AI](#)
[Friday Find](#)
[WWI War News](#)
[Saturday Night Genealogy Fun](#)
[My Favorite Photo](#)
[WW2 War News](#)
[Thompson DNA](#)
[Herbert Mentzer](#)
[Friday Find](#)
[WWI War News](#)
[Saturday Night Genealogy Fun](#)
[Relative Finder](#)
[WW2 War News](#)
[Transcription Success](#)
[Print My Blog](#)
[Friday Find](#)
[WWI War News](#)
[Saturday Night Genealogy Fun](#)
[Kirkpatrick Cousins](#)
[WW2 Newspaper Accounts](#)
[Chancery Court Record](#)
[Maynard Family](#)
[Preserving Family History](#)
[WWI War News](#)
[Saturday Night Genealogy Fun](#)
[Connecting Family](#)
[WW2 Newspaper Accounts](#)
[Thank You Mr. Otter!](#)
[Bluesky Lists](#)
[Friday Find](#)
[WWI War News](#)
[Saturday Night Genealogy Fun](#)
[Chance Family](#)
[WW2 Newspaper Accounts](#)
[Prompted](#)
[Photo Hints](#)
[Happy Valentine's Day 2025](#)
[WWI War News](#)
[Saturday Night Genealogy Fun](#)
[WW2 Newspaper Accounts](#)
[Correcting Tree](#)
[Matthew Bland Descendants](#)
[RootsMagic SQL](#)
[Friday Find](#)

[WWI War News](#)
[Saturday Night Genealogy Fun](#)
[Following Clues](#)
[WW2 News](#)
[RootsTech2025](#)
[Friday Find](#)

Goal Setting

By Marcia Crawford Philbrick
January 1, 2025

[Goals](#)

<https://heartlandgenealogy.org/2025/01/01/goal-setting/>



GENEALOGY GOALS

Have You Made Any Genealogy Resolutions for 2025?

After two years of falling short on the goals I ambitiously shared on January 1, I've decided to take a different approach for 2025. This year, I'm focusing on broader, more flexible goals that will still drive progress in my genealogy journey.

- **Artificial Intelligence (AI):** I plan to continue exploring and integrating AI tools into my genealogy research, leveraging their capabilities to uncover new insights.
- **Blogging:** I aim to maintain a consistent posting schedule for this blog, sharing my discoveries and experiences regularly.
- **Sharing:** I want to keep sharing my research through platforms like Ancestry, WikiTree, and FamilySearch, ensuring my work is accessible and beneficial to others.
- **DNA Research:** I will keep honing my skills in working with DNA results, using them to identify relationships and uncover connections with my matches.

While these goals may not meet the strict criteria of SMART goals, I can still measure my progress by tracking key metrics and milestones.

As we step into 2025, I'm excited about the possibilities these goals will bring. Here's to another year of learning, sharing, and making meaningful genealogy discoveries!

How to Access BIRLS Files for Free

By Marcia Crawford Philbrick
January 2, 2025

[military](#)

<https://heartlandgenealogy.org/2025/01/02/birls/>

Did you catch Climbing My Family Tree's recent post, "[Wow! Reclaim the Records Got BIRLS Files for Us for Free](#)"? If so, have you requested a BIRLS file for your ancestor yet?

✦ AI Overview

A BIRLS file is a record in the Beneficiary Identification Records Locator Subsystem (BIRLS), a database that contains information on deceased and living veterans: 

What's in a BIRLS file?

Information includes name, birth and death dates, branch of service, enlistment and release dates, Social Security number, and military service number 

Who's in the database?

The database includes veterans who received veterans benefits, such as health care, disability or life insurance, educational benefits, and mortgage assistance. It also includes some non-US nationals, such as veterans of the Philippine Commonwealth Army. 

How's the database used?

The VA uses BIRLS to verify veteran information, such as service disability confirmation and surviving spouse benefits. It's also a significant source for researchers researching ancestors who served in the U.S. Armed Forces. 

While a subscription to Ancestry or Fold3 allows you to search the BIRLS database, neither platform provides a way to request the actual file. However, thanks to Reclaim the Records' site, birls.org, you can now both search the database and access a direct link to request the file.

Searching the birls.org site, I found my grandfather, Leon Crawford.

Search Results							
SEARCHING FOR: LEON CRAWFORD; born between 1888-1899							
EXPAND DETAILS	GIVEN NAME ↑↓	MIDDLE NAME ↑↓	SURNAME ↑↓	SUFFIX	DATE OF BIRTH ↑↓	DATE OF DEATH ↑↓	BRANCH(ES) OF SERVICE
▼	LEON		CRAWFORD		February 6, 1894	October 3, 1976	ARMY

When I searched the [birls.org](#) site, I found my grandfather, Leon Crawford. Expanding his entry revealed details about his World War I military service. Following the site’s suggestion, I used the link to the Veterans Administration Master Index dataset to locate his military serial number.

More information about LEON CRAWFORD

ENTERED/ENLISTED	RELEASED FROM ACTIVE DUTY	SERVED	DIED	CAUSE OF DEATH	SSN	GENDER
ARMY on April 26, 1917 at age 23	on March 28, 1919 at age 25	approx. 23 months	age 82	UNKNOWN	709- 16- 3080	M

For veterans who entered or enlisted in the military **prior to 1940** (i.e. entered service *before* World War II), one of the only public ways to determine the veteran's serial number or service number is by looking at the Veteran Administration Master Index (VAMI) index cards. This series of cards was microfilmed by the VA and then sent to the National Archives branch in St. Louis many decades ago. They were finally digitized in a joint project between FamilySearch and Reclaim The Records in 2019. You can use the FamilySearch website (free registration required) to **search the 1917-1940 Veterans Administration Master Index data set** by veteran name and/or birth year, and then **look at the actual index card image associated with the veteran record**. The 'Sn.' field on the center-left side of those cards will contain the veteran's card number or service number while the 101 number in the top right corner of the





Filtered Results (2)

 [PREFERENCES](#)  [SEARCH](#)

Collection: Military, United States, Veterans Administration Master Index, 1917-1940 (2) 

[SHOW MORE](#)

Collection

Sex

Race

Birth

Other

Residence

Name

[Leon R Crawford](#)
Principal
United States, Veterans
Administration Master Index, 1917-
1940
  

Events and Relationships

Military Service 28 March 1919
Dodge City, Washington, Kansas, United States

Birth 6 February 1896

[Howard Lawrence or H L Crawford](#)

Military Service 18 June 1919

Leon R Crawford

Military • United States, Veterans Administration Master Index, 1

 SAVE

 EDIT

 SHARE

[VIEW ORIGINAL DOCUMENT](#)

Document Information 

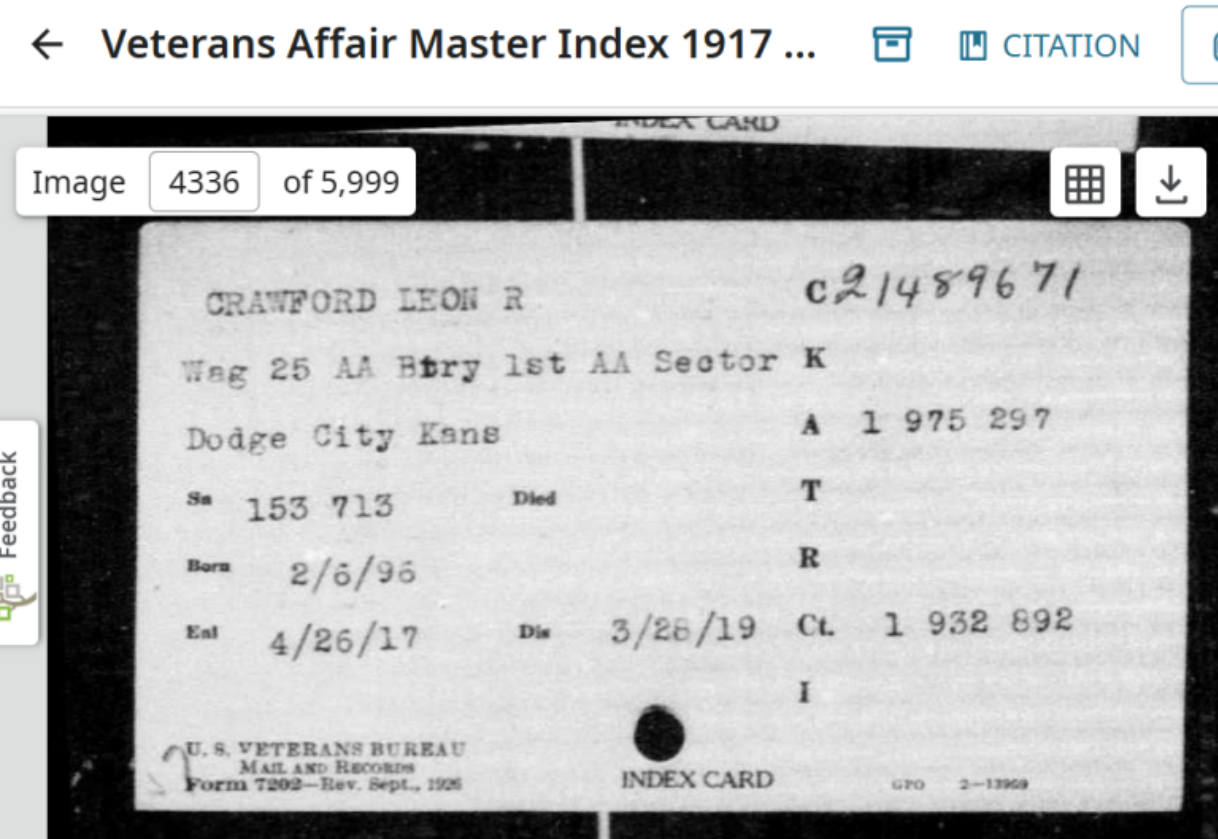
Collection Information

[United States, Veterans
Administration Master Index,
1917-1940](#) 

Name	Leon R Crawford
Birth Date	6 February 1896
Residence Place	Dodge City, Kansas
Event Type	Military Service
Event Date	28 March 1919
Event Place	Dodge City, Washington, Kansas, United States
Event Place (Original)	City of Dodge City, Kansas
Affiliate Publication Number	76193916
Affiliate Publication Title	Veterans Administration Master Index, 1917 - 1940

https://heartlandgenealogy.org/wp-content/uploads/pmb/generated/P...land-genealogy-blog-posts-jan-feb-2025.html?uniqueness=1785584629

Page 7 of 156



With that information, I submitted a FOIA (Freedom of Information Act) request for my grandfather’s veteran’s “C file.” Now, I just have to wait!

FOIA REQUEST

This is a request made under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) for copies of records relating to a deceased veteran. Please provide a full copy of this veteran's Claims File (C-File).

DECEASED VETERAN INFORMATION	
Given Name	LEON
Middle Name	
Surname	CRAWFORD

We have faxed (yes, faxed!) a copy of your FOIA form to the Veterans Benefits Administration's Centralized Support Division. We have also e-mailed you a copy for your records.

The agency is *supposed* to acknowledge the receipt of your FOIA request within twenty business days, and ideally by e-mail, but it will probably be more like two months and probably arrive via postal mail. Nevertheless, they should eventually send you a formal FOIA acknowledgement letter, followed a few months after that by a packet of information on the veteran you're researching.

If the VA does not provide you with any response after several months, or if they claim they cannot find the file at all, or if you believe the resulting files were not properly produced or had too many unnecessary redactions, then you can (and should!) file a free FOIA appeal with the VA's Office of General Counsel at this email address: ogcfoiaappeals@va.gov.

We're a small non-profit called [Reclaim The Records](#) that identifies, acquires, and publishes historical datasets like this BIRLS database, all for free public use, without any restrictions or paywalls. If this website, its millions of searchable records, and this automated FOIA-building and FOIA-submitting system have been helpful to you in your research, [please consider making a donation](#) to help us keep going with our work?

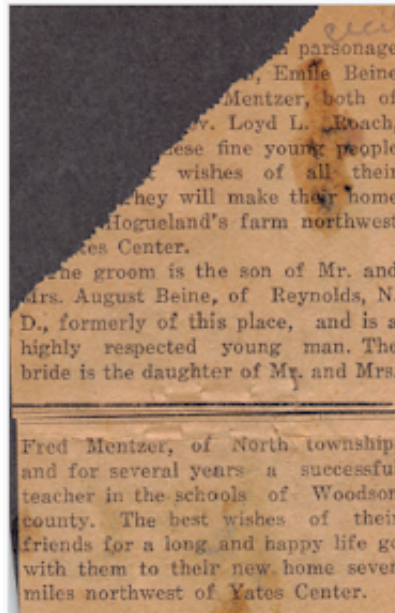
A huge thank you to Reclaim the Records for making these records accessible to all of us. Your efforts are truly appreciated!

Friday Find

By Marcia Crawford Philbrick
January 3, 2025

[Mentzer, Woodson County](#)

<https://heartlandgenealogy.org/2025/01/03/friday-find-68/>



Did your grandmother or another family member save newspaper clippings? If so, do you have any that are incomplete or missing details?

Today's discovery comes from one of those partial clippings. Thanks to the incredible efforts to digitize historic newspapers, I was able to track down the full article from the fragment I had.

Beine—Mentzer.

At the Christian church parsonage Sunday, April 8, 1923, Emile Beine and Miss Cecil M. Mentzer, both of Yates Center, Rev. Loyd L. Roach, officiating. These fine young people have the best wishes of all their friends. They will make their home on Mr. Hogueland's farm northwest of Yates Center.

The groom is the son of Mr. and Mrs. August Beine, of Reynolds, N.D., formerly of this place, and is a highly respected young man. The bride is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs.

Fred Mentzer, of North township, and for several years a successful teacher in the schools of Woodson county. The best wishes of their friends for a long and happy life go with them to their new home seven miles northwest of Yates Center.

Yates Center News (Yates Center, Kansas), 13 April 1923, page 4.

WWI War News

By Marcia Crawford Philbrick

January 4, 2025

[World War I, WWI](https://heartlandgenealogy.org/2025/01/04/wwi-war-news/)

<https://heartlandgenealogy.org/2025/01/04/wwi-war-news/>

NEMAHA COUNTY REGISTERED 1464 YOUNG MEN JUNE 5

Not a Discordant Note to Mar the Harmony of the Response—More Than Half With Dependents

NEMAHA COUNTY REGISTERED 1464 YOUNG MEN JUNE 5

Not a Discordant Note to Mar the Harmony of the Response—More Than Half With Dependents

On Registration Day, 1464 young men of Nemaha County were registered for service at the call of Uncle Sam. If there was a single jar in the whole of the orderly proceeding, Sheriff Charles Carman has not heard of it. The population of Nemaha county is approximately 18,700 people. This gives, then, a registration of a little over 7 1-2 per cent. One of the significant things connected with the registration is the number of men who list themselves as having dependent families. If these young men are, for the greater part, able to sustain their claim for exemption on the ground of dependent families before the local boards of exemption, it will mean that a larger percentage of the young men who claim no exemption will be drawn. Now of course it doesn't take a great deal of grey matter to figure that out—but if you walked up to the registrars with a brave front and said that there is no reason in the world why you should not serve your country—you stand a fair show of being taken at your word. Here are the figures: Out of the 1464 men, 757 have indicated dependent families. Seventeen show total disability. Seventy-five indicated on their cards reasons for probable exemption.

579 young men, a little over one-third, told the registrars that they claim no exemption. Come to think of it down right seriously don't you consider that pretty good? Over 500 young men in this county ready to drop everything to answer the call of the flag.

Total aliens registered number twenty-four. Alien enemies, twelve. The highest registration from any one township was in Home—seventy-three. Out in Mitchell, where the hall was flooded by the high waters of the Nemaha, 52 were recorded. Many of them waded through the water waist deep in order to have their names properly recorded. Those from this side

tied their horses on that side and plunged in. Three of the Mitchell township boys registered with County Clerk Kaufman the next morning.

The registrars had orders to get their returns in to the County Clerk by noon the next day and were game out to obey orders. Jim Hanks, of Granada township, in his car, tried first to cross at the Deffenbaugh bridge but found the water too high. Then he tried the Simon bridge and failed. Not to be daunted he tried the Krapp bridge. Not being able to get across he left the car and hoofed it in and his returns were in on time.

W. H. Sherrard, of Gilman, R. T. Allison of Nemaha, and Harry Heimann of Richmond were other registrars who were away from home all night.

The Courier Democrat (Seneca, KS) 14 Jun 1917, page 1

Saturday Night Genealogy Fun

By Marcia Crawford Philbrick
January 5, 2025

[SaturdayNightGenealogyFun](https://heartlandgenealogy.org/2025/01/05/saturday-night-genealogy-fun-138/)

<https://heartlandgenealogy.org/2025/01/05/saturday-night-genealogy-fun-138/>

It's Time for More ...



Saturday Night Genealogy Fun!

Calling all [Genea-Musings](#) Fans:

It's Saturday Night again –

Time for some more Genealogy Fun!!

Come on, everybody, join in and accept the mission and execute it with precision.

1) What are your genealogy goals for 2025? Consider genealogy research, education, organizing, service, writing, and whatever else you care to share.

Since I discussed my 2025 goals in my January 1 blog post, I'm going to just copy that post.

Have You Made Any Genealogy Resolutions for 2025?

After two years of falling short on the goals I ambitiously shared on January 1, I've decided to take a different approach for 2025. This year, I'm focusing on broader, more flexible goals that will still drive progress in my genealogy journey.

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Writing Assistant

By Marcia Crawford Philbrick

January 5, 2025

[Artificial Intelligence](#)

<https://heartlandgenealogy.org/2025/01/05/writing-assistant/>



Greetings from Snowy Kansas!

For those who don't know, I live in northeast Kansas, where we're currently in the midst of a blizzard. Yesterday brought freezing drizzle, and much of the state experienced freezing rain. With roads now coated in a layer of ice beneath the snow, we've been asked to stay home for safety. As a result, most church services have been canceled.

Thankfully, our local United Methodist Church was prepared! Anticipating the storm, we filmed the service on Friday afternoon, and the YouTube video was made public this morning. To help share the service with others beyond our congregation, I also wrote a post for Facebook.

My Version:

Today is Epiphany Sunday where the church remembers the visit of the Magi to Jesus. The Magi's presentation of gifts to the Christ child is seen to proclaim that Christ came to provide salvation for everyone. Today, you are invited to celebrate Epiphany Sunday from your living rooms. Join Pastor Tim Woods and the Seneca United Methodist church in song, scripture, sermon and prayer as we read about the gifts the Magi bring and ponder what gifts we can bring to Christ.

The previously recorded service is on YouTube at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JbNln3ynn_Q

ChatGPT – My Writing Assistant

Afterward, I turned to ChatGPT for help refining my post.

ChatGPT's version

Today is Epiphany Sunday, a day when the church reflects on the visit of the Magi to the Christ child. Their presentation of gifts symbolizes the proclamation that Christ came to offer salvation to all.

You are warmly invited to celebrate Epiphany Sunday from the comfort of your home. Join Pastor Tim Woods and the Seneca United Methodist Church in worship through song, scripture, sermon, and prayer. Together, we'll reflect on the gifts the Magi brought to Jesus and consider what gifts we can offer to Him in our own lives.

The pre-recorded service is available on YouTube at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JbNln3ynn_Q

As usual, ChatGPT transformed my original writing into what I believe is a much-improved version. This is just one example of how I use ChatGPT as a reliable writing assistant.

https://youtube.com/watch?v=JbNln3ynn_Q



My Genealogy Journey Beginnings

By Marcia Crawford Philbrick

January 6, 2025

[#52ancestors](#), [RootsMagic10](#)

<https://heartlandgenealogy.org/2025/01/06/beginnings-2/>



Do you remember when you first embarked on your genealogy journey? Was it in the pre-Internet era, when research meant leafing through books and filling out forms by hand? If so, you're not alone.

My own genealogy journey began simply, with paper and pencil in hand. I started with blank pedigree charts and family group sheets, eager to uncover my family's story. Thankfully, I wasn't alone in my efforts—I had several family members who helped set me on the right path.

It was my grandmother CRAWFORD who first sparked my interest. She expressed a desire to know where her grandmother was buried. Beyond that, she had an invaluable collection of family photos and personal knowledge about her side of the family (the Currey line) and my grandfather's family (the Crawfords).

Other relatives played key roles as well

- **Gladys (Vanderwilt) Crawford**, my great-aunt by marriage, had compiled extensive research on the descendants of Judson Crawford, my great-grandfather.
- **Dorothy Gilbert**, my dad's first cousin, was delving into the Currey branch of the family tree.
- **Max Briles**, a second cousin once removed on my mother's side, had documented the Briles family genealogy.
- My **grandmother BRILES** contributed her father's family Bible, along with treasured family photographs.
- My **mother-in-law, Joanne Philbrick**, introduced me to the basics of genealogy, teaching me how to use family group sheets and pedigree charts effectively.

Because my research began before the Internet era, much of my early work involved traveling to archives and libraries. I made frequent trips to the [Kansas State Historical Society](#) in Topeka, where I pored over Kansas census records, federal census rolls, and an extensive collection of Kansas newspapers to uncover obituaries and other clues.

This was also the time of SASEs (self-addressed stamped envelopes). I used them regularly to request vital records and correspond with other researchers.

While I began with paper forms, I soon found family group sheets too restrictive:

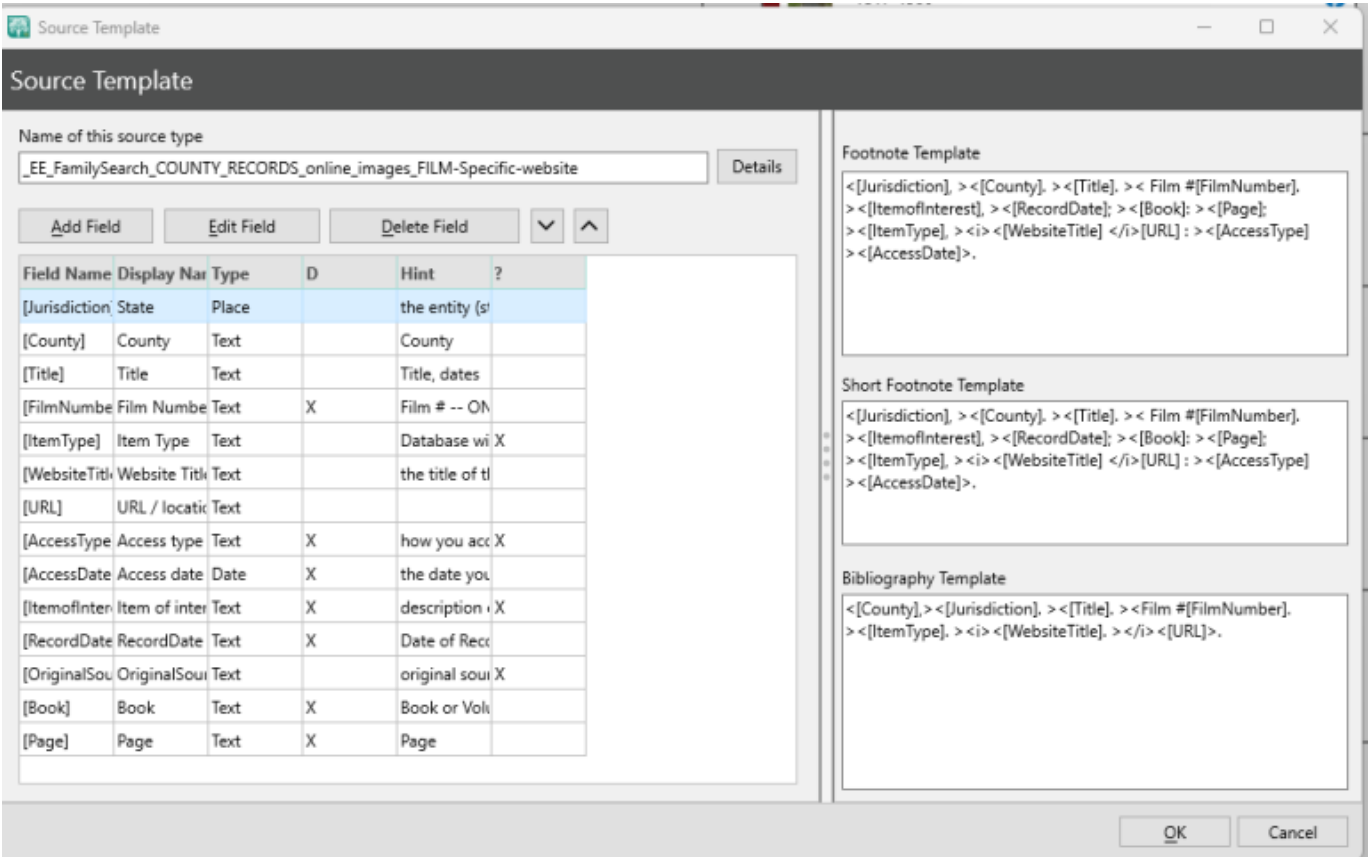
- They only allowed for basic events like birth, marriage, death, and burial.
- They didn't provide an easy way to track the sources of my information.

My first leap into genealogy software came during a trip to Salt Lake City, where I purchased Personal Ancestral File (PAF). Digitizing my research was a game changer—it allowed me to organize census records and other data. However, PAF didn't adequately address source documentation. To solve this, I transitioned to **The Master Genealogist (TMG)**, which allowed me to add sources. At the time, I relied on Richard Lackey's *Cite Your Sources* to guide my citation writing.

From the beginning to now

Eventually, I moved from TMG to [RootsMagic](#), a platform that became a cornerstone of my research. With it, I embraced Elizabeth Shown Mills' [Evidence Explained](#) as my go-to guide for citation writing. While I still consult *Evidence Explained* occasionally, I now lean on templates to create citations.

RootsMagic includes many templates, but sometimes I need to customize them to fit specific sources. For example, I recently modified a template from *Evidence Explained* to document a county record from FamilySearch, which I then shared with my husband for his research.



RootsMagic Template Example

Master Source - Will-OH Preble County Book C Film 005868427 Family Search	
Changes will affect all citations using this source	
Source Type	_EE_FamilySearch_COUNTY_RECORDS_online_images_FILM-Specific-website
Source Name	Will-OH Preble County Book C Film 005868427 Family Search
State	Ohio
County	Preble
Title	Will Book C
Item Type	digital image
Website Title	Family Search
URL / location	www.familysearch.org
OriginalSource	original source of data or image
Master Source text, media, etc	
Citation Details	
Citation Name	Film 005868427; viewed online; January 2019; James Crawford; 28 Jul 1854; Book C; image 555
Film Number	Film 005868427
Access type	viewed online
Access date	January 2019
Item of interest	James Crawford
RecordDate	28 Jul 1854
Book	Book C
Page	page 389 (image 555)

RootsMagic Citation Example Built on Template

My genealogy journey from the beginning to today has been a rewarding evolution. I continue to collect ancestors and events, always striving to document my findings with accurate source citations.

WW2 War News

By Marcia Crawford Philbrick

January 7, 2025

[World War II, WWII](#)

<https://heartlandgenealogy.org/2025/01/07/kansas-august-quota-734/>

U. S. Service News

Draw Order Numbers Thursday

U. S. Service News

Draw Order Numbers Thursday

The national lottery for drawing new order numbers is to be held Thursday, the 17th. Ceremonies at Washington D.C. will start near 7:00 p.m. Secretary Stimson will draw the first number. The drawing will take some two hours. As soon as possible after it is completed, master lists will be sent to all local selective service boards.

Kansas August Quota, 734

It has been announced that the August draft quota for the state will be 734 men. The breakdown for separate counties has not been announced.

The state quota for July was over 1300, and Nemaha County was asked to send 12. This quota was later cut to nine because of men who were over 28.

Nemaha County may have a higher quota in August, in proportion to the state quota, than it had in July. State headquarters has been giving the county credit for men in the Sabetha battery; credits are about used, it is believed.

Courier Tribune (Seneca, Kansas) 14 July 1941, page 2

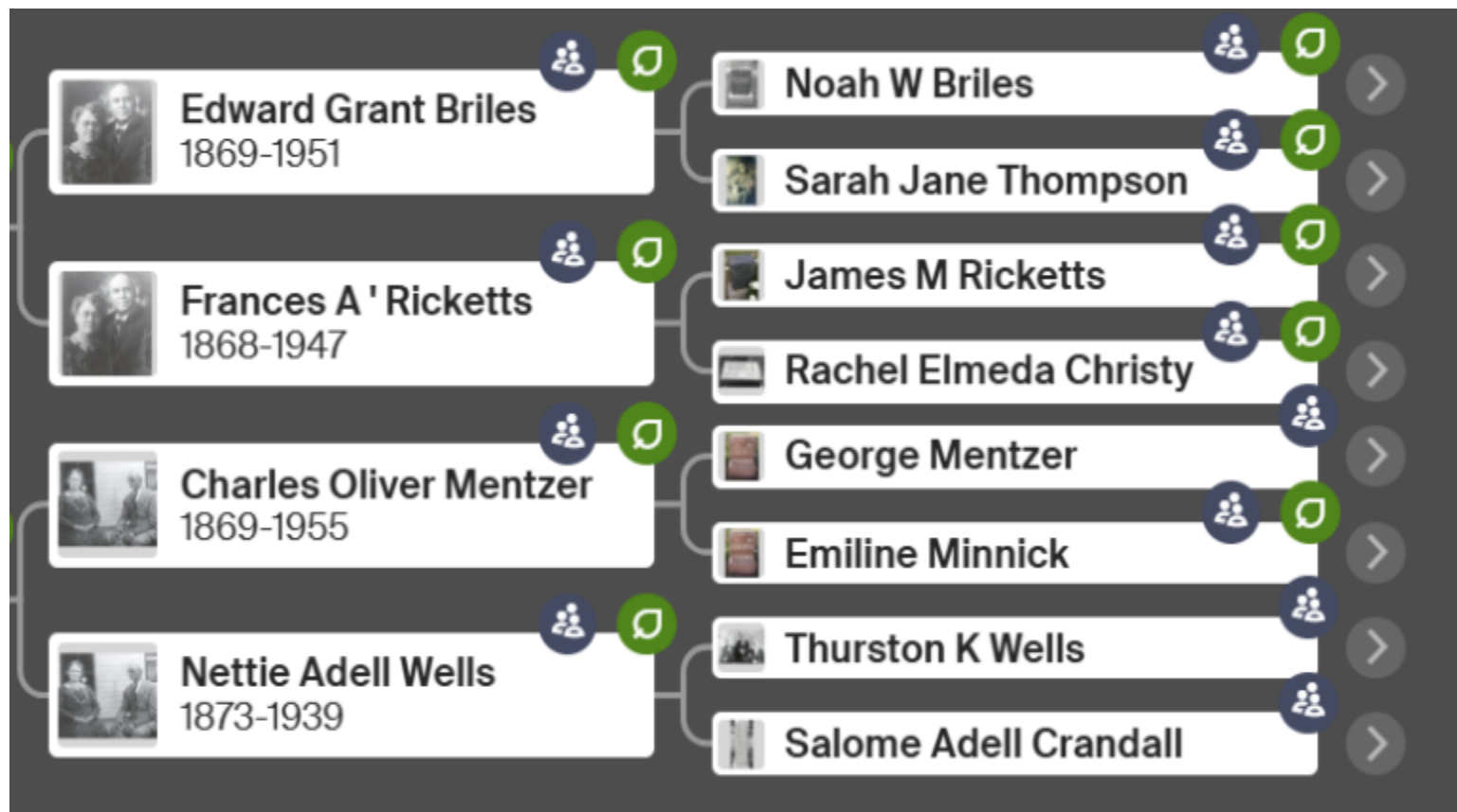
New Family Tree Feature

By Marcia Crawford Philbrick

January 8, 2025

[Ancestry, DNA](#)

<https://heartlandgenealogy.org/2025/01/08/new-family-tree-feature/>



Have you noticed Ancestry's new **BETA** family tree feature? This update introduces a small blue icon resembling a group of people, which appears on your family tree.

This icon allows you to connect DNA matches to your tree. Clicking on the icon opens a sidebar where you can view DNA matches who descend from the selected ancestor. If you've already connected some DNA matches to your tree, the sidebar will highlight those connections.

Charles's descendants

These are your DNA matches who may be related to **Charles Oliver Mentzer**. Select a match to view the connection and add to your tree.

Add to tree 1 **In your tree** 10

Through Charles's son Paul 1

2nd cousin 2x removed
40 cM | 4 segments
Public linked tree (3 People)

View connection

By selecting **View Connection**, you can see how a match is connected to a common ancestor.

DNA Hire an Expert

Activity Invite Find in tree

1944-1914 1945-1924 1947- 1948-1916

Nettie Adell Wells 1873-1939 John F. Mentzer 1871-1943 Anna May Wells 1868-1938 Charles E. Tunnick 1874-1963 Susan Mentzer 1873-1916

Charles's nieces/nephews

Pauline E. Mentzer 1896-1984 Leslie G. Danielson 1898-1988 Vesta Marie Danielson 1900-1993 Herbert W. Mentzer 1900-1977 Ruth Sh. Kitter 1906-1916

Charles's grandchildren

Charlotte Mentzer
1923-1976
View profile

Charlotte Mentzer
2nd cousin
1946-
View profile

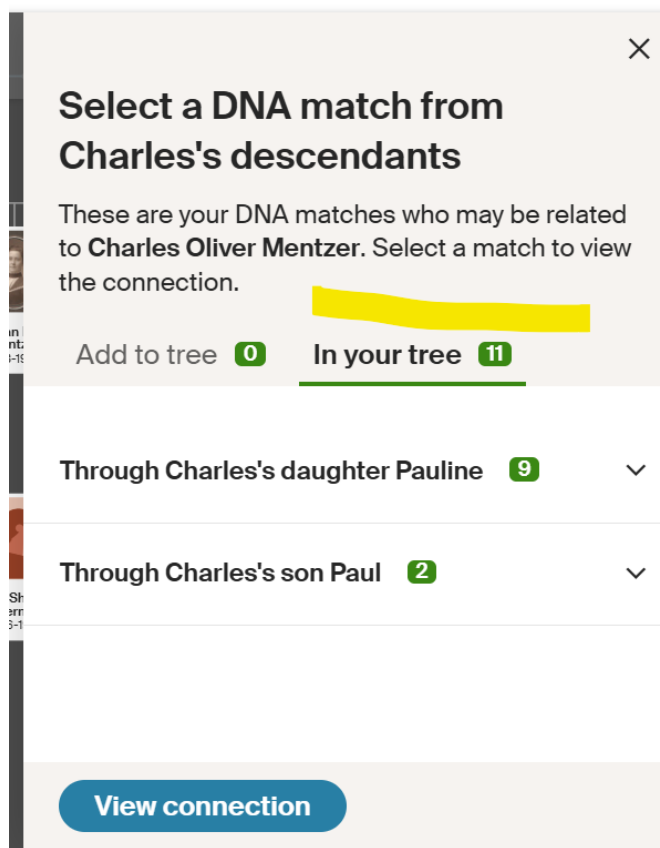
2nd cousin 1x removed
119 cM | 8 segments
DNA MATCH
View profile

2nd cousin 2x removed
40 cM | 4 segments
DNA MATCH
View match

Review person

Clicking on **View Match** takes you to the DNA match's profile, where you can review their details and, if desired, connect them to your tree. In my case, since I already had this match in my file, I simply linked them to my tree.

After linking the match, I clicked the blue icon again, and it updated to show that I now have 11 matches in my tree. Of those, nine share Pauline as an ancestor, while two are connected through Paul.



To learn more about this exciting new feature, check out these videos!

https://youtube.com/watch?v=U-Whr_TPDyY



<https://youtube.com/watch?v=E82tgAiERb4>



Blogging with AI

By Marcia Crawford Philbrick

January 9, 2025

[Uncategorized](#)

<https://heartlandgenealogy.org/2025/01/09/blogging-with-ai/>



AI Tools

Are you using artificial intelligence (AI) tools in your genealogy research? Whether you realize it or not, AI is transforming the way we search for and transcribe records, making the process faster and more efficient.

One of my earliest experiences with AI was using [ChatGPT](#) to transcribe newspaper articles. Over time, I've expanded my toolkit to include [Perplexity.ai](#), which has proven to be a valuable resource for genealogical research.

More recently, I've turned to AI for enhancing my blog posts, particularly when it comes to improving the writing and optimizing for SEO (search engine optimization)—making my posts more visible to search engines. AI tools have also been helpful in creating visually compelling featured images to accompany my blog content.

Take yesterday's [Thompson DNA post](#) as an example. I used ChatGPT to refine my draft and improve its readability. My first prompt included the raw text of the post:

can you improve the following? Are you a member of any surname groups on Facebook? If so, have you seen posts asking whether you have a particular surname in your tree? The Thompson Genealogy group recently had a couple of posts. When I saw the first post asking about the surname NAIL, I looked in my RootsMagic file and did not find anyone. However, when I searched my list of DNA matches, I found over 100 matches with the NAIL surname in their trees. Filtering those matches to isolate the common ancestors, resulted in three matches. Unfortunately, those three matches represent three different branches of my tree.

John Reed / Mary Buckles — 4th great grandparent on my MOTHER's side of the tree Major Simon Gerrit VanArsdale / Rachel Banta – 5th great grandparents on my FATHER'S side of the tree Jeremiah Browning / Cassandra Farmer – 5th great grandparents on my FATHER's side of the tree While I'm hoping that when finished grouping my DNA matches, my 'dots' will provide more clues to how I'm related to these matches. With only about 1/2 of the groups finished, it does not look promising. I currently have the following groups in my list of DNA matches with the NAIL surname in their tree. Ralston/McCormick – 1 (paternal side) Hammond/Fisk – 3 (paternal side) Currey/Harris – 1 (paternal side — would include the VanArsdale line) While my Ricketts/Reed group has 133 members, none of them are showing up in the list of matches with the NAIL surname. The same is true of my Foster/Ostrander group with 379 members. A similar Facebook post was looking for people with the GOBLE surname in their tree. Again, I don't have anyone with the GOBLE surname in my RootsMagic file but have over 100 DNA matches whose trees have the Goble surname in them. Below is an analysis of these results. Foster/Ostrander group matches (paternal side) – 2 Ralston/McCormick group matches (paternal side) – 2 James Ralson / Nancy McCormick (3rd great grandparents on paternal side of my tree) – common ancestors – 1 match John Reed / Mary Buckles (4th great grandparents on maternal side of my tree) common ancestor – 1 match Mary Stanley (5th great grandmother on maternal side of my tree) – common ancestor – 1 match Benjamin Rush / Dorcas Vickory (5th great grandparents on maternal side of my tree) – common ancestor – 1 match Sorting by paternal vs maternal side results on over 50 matches on the paternal side with almost 50 matches on the maternal side These Facebook questions and my analysis of my DNA matches has shown me that I'm likely NOT related to these THOMPSON researchers thru my THOMPSON line. With my tree going back to the 1700s in the United States and over 100,000 DNA matches, I'm finding that searching my DNA matches for surnames is not very helpful. Instead the grouping of my matches as recommended by Your DNA Guide is proving to be helpful in figuring out relationships of my DNA matches to each other and to myself.

In addition to polishing the text, I also asked ChatGPT to write the **meta description** for the post. The response was:

Explore how analyzing DNA matches and grouping them by family lines can uncover surprising connections across different branches of your family tree. Learn how surname searches on Facebook and tools like Your DNA Guide provide insights into genealogical research.

Next, I requested a **focus keyphrase** for the post, and ChatGPT suggested: **“DNA matches and surname analysis.”** Based on this suggestion, I updated the post by incorporating the phrase into the introduction and other key sections.

When the SEO analysis indicated that the keyphrase needed to appear in the meta description, I asked ChatGPT to revise it accordingly.

For the featured image, I experimented with the “Generate with AI” feature in WordPress. While it produced a suitable image, there were misspelled words in the design. I turned back to ChatGPT, and after a couple of iterations, it successfully created an accurate and visually appealing image.



By leveraging ChatGPT and other AI tools, I was able to enhance the quality of the Thompson DNA post—both in terms of its writing and its discoverability. These tools not only made the process smoother but also helped me refine my approach to genealogy blogging as a whole.

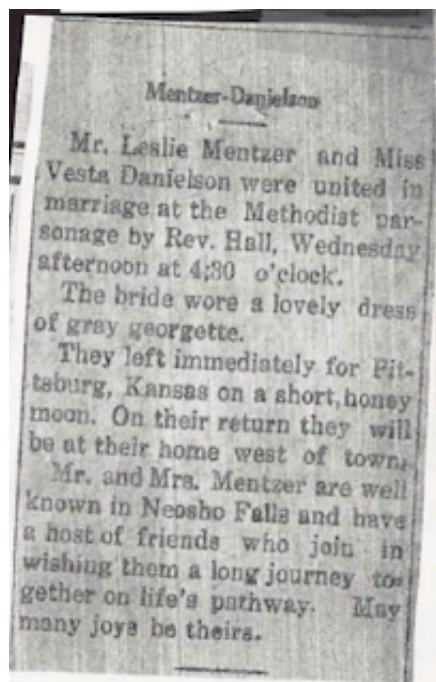
AI continues to be a game-changer in my research and writing process. Whether I'm transcribing records, analyzing DNA matches, or optimizing blog content for SEO, these tools are proving invaluable in helping me uncover and share meaningful stories from my family history.

Friday Find

By Marcia Crawford Philbrick
January 10, 2025

[Mentzer](#)

<https://heartlandgenealogy.org/2025/01/10/friday-find-69/>



Leslie Mentzer Wedding

Do you have old newspaper clippings tucked away in your genealogy files? I do, and I'm deeply grateful that my grandmothers had the foresight to save them. I'm also thankful for the Kansas newspaper publishers who recognized the importance of preserving their work as far back as the 1860s. Today, those efforts are paying off, with many of these historic newspapers being digitized as copyright allows.

Among the treasures I uncovered is a clipping announcing the marriage of Leslie Mentzer and Vesta Danielson.

Mentzer-Danielson

Mr. Leslie Mentzer and Miss Vesta Danielson were united in marriage at the Methodist parsonage by Rev. Hall, Wednesday afternoon at 4:30 o'clock.

The bride wore a lovely dress of gray georgette.

They left immediately for Pittsburg, Kansas on a short honeymoon. On their return they will be at their home west of town.

Mr. and Mrs. Mentzer are well known in Neosho Falls and have a host of friends who join in wishing them a long journey together on life's pathway. May many joys be theirs.

The Neosho Falls Post (Neosho Falls, Kansas), 17 April 1924, page 1

WWI War News

By Marcia Crawford Philbrick

January 11, 2025

[World War I, WWI](#)

<https://heartlandgenealogy.org/2025/01/11/wwi-war-news-2/>



180,000 ELIGIBLE TO DRAFT HERE

Every County in State Required to Furnish Its Quota to Army.

INTEREST IN THE EXEMPTIONS

But Nobody Yet Has a Hint as to What the Government Will Require.

Topeka.—Every county in Kansas must furnish its share of soldiers in the national army. The secretary of war will play no favorites in regard to localities. As soon as the registration is completed next Tuesday, the President will appoint local county exemption boards to determine which young men shall go to war and which shall stay at home.

In ninety-nine counties of the state, the members of the present county registration boards will be appointed by the President as members of the exemption board. In Kansas City, Kan., the present registration board will be named as an exemption board and two additional exemption boards will be created for that city. One additional board will be created for Topeka and Wichita. Montgomery and Crawford counties will each have two exemption boards. Other counties in the state will have but one board each.

While the regulations for exemption have not yet been formally issued, information has reached here from Washington that each county will be required to furnish its quota of troops for the new army. The number will be based upon the population. Under the call, Kansas will supply about 10,000 troops for the first army, exclusive of the national guard and the regular army.

The various counties will not be given credit in the drafted army for the number of men they have furnished the regular army or the national guard. However, Kansas will be credited for all the Kansans who go into the army, no matter in what branch of the service.

The war department has also indicated that it wants both the regular army and the national guard recruited up to full war strength, so it is not likely that any order will be issued forbidding men to volunteer, even though they have registered under the draft.

Much interest is manifested in regard to exemptions. At this time it is impossible to state what reasons for exemption will be considered good. The President has intimated that all men with families dependent upon them for support or men who can be of more service to their country on the farm or in the shops than in the army, will be exempted.

Corning Gazette (Corning, Kansas), 14 June 1917, page 1

Saturday Night Genealogy Fun

By Marcia Crawford Philbrick
January 12, 2025

[SaturdayNightGenealogyFun](https://heartlandgenealogy.org/2025/01/12/saturday-night-genealogy-fun-139/)

<https://heartlandgenealogy.org/2025/01/12/saturday-night-genealogy-fun-139/>

It's Time for More ...



Saturday Night Genealogy Fun!

Calling all [Genea-Musings](#) Fans:

It's Saturday Night again –

Time for some more Genealogy Fun!!

Come on, everybody, join in and accept the mission and execute it with precision.

1) Do you have a digital genealogy library? If so, what titles are in it. If not, why not?

I do have a few titles in my Amazon account.

- After You're Gone: Futur Prooving Your Genealogy Resarch
- The Genealogy Do-Over Workbook
- The Everything Guide to Online Genealogy
- Genealogy Stnadards: Fiftieth Anniversary Edition
- Evidence Explained 3rd Edition

While I have a larger collection of print books, I'm finding that many of the books I wish to use are available thru

FamilySearch or Archive.org.

My Favorite Photo

By Marcia Crawford Philbrick
January 13, 2025

[#52ancestors](#), [Crawford](#), [Currey](#), [Hammond](#)

<https://heartlandgenealogy.org/2025/01/13/my-favorite-photo/>



#52Ancestors

One of my favorite photos is from Christmas 1953. At just a toddler, it was likely the first Christmas where I could actively participate. Yet, it was a season marked by profound sadness for my family.

On December 23rd, my mother gave birth to twin boys. Tragically, [Duane Gail Crawford](#), one of the twins, passed away on Christmas Eve and was laid to rest on December 26th.

What amazes me most is how, in the midst of their heartbreak, my family still found the strength to create and preserve memories. They took the time to capture moments from that Christmas in photographs, ensuring that even during sorrowful times, joy and love were not forgotten.

One of those cherished pictures is of me with my grandmother, [Winnie \(Currey\) Crawford](#) and [Josie \(Hammond\) Crawford](#), my great-grandmother—a tender reminder of resilience, family, and the enduring power of love.



WW2 War News

By Marcia Crawford Philbrick
January 14, 2025

[Uncategorized](#)

<https://heartlandgenealogy.org/2025/01/14/ww2-war-news/>

Goff Has Defense Industry In Egg Packing Plant

Goff Has Defense Industry In Egg Packing Plant

[Goff Advance]

Goff and this rural community seem far removed from the maelstrom of death, suffering, and bitter hatreds of war-torn Europe, yet that conflict and the need for sustenance of the allied forces of Democracy directly affect the lives of many people here. Since early May the Goff Poultry and Egg Co. has been operating its egg breaking, canning, and freezing departments to full capacity, and present indications are that the demand will last right through the year.

For several years the Goff packing plant did not operate its breaking room because of the low price of the product and slow demand. Now the urgent demand for good food (with eggs, dairy products, and meat at the head of the list) calls for all-out production and processing by the United States in its aid to England. Nearly all eggs marketed in this section are being broken, canned, and frozen as fast as they are produced. The Goff P & E Co. shipped only a few cars of eggs in June in the shell, but many carloads of frozen eggs in the can. Practically all of this production goes to the allied forces. Some of the canned eggs will be evaporated or dried before shipping across the Atlantic to save weight—the water can be added later.

The payroll and the money required for cash purchases of five trucks operating out of the Goff plant direct to the farms requires a surprising amount of silver and currency. While the payroll of several thousand dollars a week and the larger egg and poultry purchases are one by check, it is necessary for the Goff bank to ship in money by registered mail regularly, and the amount required is many times that of smaller communities and approaches some of the larger cities.

Manager C. H. Furst wishes his breaking and freezing capacity were many times larger. Ray E. Talley, veteran employee of the Goff plant, is foreman in charge of the Goff breaking room. O. V. Collins, who retired after many years of service a few years ago, is back in the harness and in charge of the breaking room of the Blue Rapids plant.

Courier Tribune (Seneca, Kansas), July 14, 1941, page 1

Thompson DNA

By Marcia Crawford Philbrick

January 15, 2025

[Thompson](#)

<https://heartlandgenealogy.org/2025/01/15/thompson-dna/>



DNA Matches and Surname Analysis

Are you a member of any surname groups on Facebook? Have you noticed posts asking whether you have a particular surname in your family tree?

Recently, the [Thompson Genealogy](#) group had a couple of intriguing posts. One post asked about the surname **NAIL**, prompting me to check my RootsMagic file. Initially, I found no one with the NAIL surname in my tree. However, when I searched my list of DNA matches, I discovered over 100 matches with the NAIL surname in their family trees.

I filtered these matches to identify possible common ancestors, narrowing the list down to three matches. Unfortunately, these three matches trace back to three entirely different branches of my tree:

Half 3rd cousin 1x removed or 4th cousin
Maternal side
22 cM | < 1% shared DNA

Public linked tree
285 people
Common ancestor

+ Add ...

C Reed / Mary Buckles

4th cousin or half 3rd cousin 1x removed
Maternal side
7 cM | < 1% shared DNA

Public linked tree
7,996 people
Common ancestor

+ Add ...

ential

4th cousin or half 3rd cousin 1x removed
Maternal side
6 cM | < 1% shared DNA

Private linked tree
1,473 people
Common ancestor

+ Add ...

H

- **John Reed & Mary Buckles** – 4th great-grandparents on my **mother's** side
- **Major Simon Gerrit VanArsdale & Rachel Banta** – 5th great-grandparents on my **father's** side
- **Jeremiah Browning & Cassandra Farmer** – 5th great-grandparents on my **father's** side

As I continue grouping my DNA matches, I'm hoping these "dots" will offer more clues about how I'm related to these NAIL matches. So far, with only about half of the groups finished, the results don't look promising. Here's what I've found regarding DNA matches with the NAIL surname in their trees:

- **Ralston/McCormick Group** (paternal side): 1 match
- **Hammond/Fisk Group** (paternal side): 3 matches
- **Currey/Harris Group** (paternal side, including the VanArsdale line): 1 match

Interestingly, my **Ricketts/Reed Group** (133 members) and **Foster/Ostrander Group** (379 members) have no matches with the NAIL surname in their trees.

Another Facebook post asked about the **GOBLE** surname. Again, I found no GOBLE individuals in my RootsMagic file but identified over 100 DNA matches with the surname in their family trees. Here's a breakdown of the results for GOBLE:

- **Foster/Ostrander Group** (paternal side): 2 matches
- **Ralston/McCormick Group** (paternal side): 2 matches
- **James Ralston & Nancy McCormick** (3rd great-grandparents on my paternal side): 1 match (common ancestors)
- **John Reed & Mary Buckles** (4th great-grandparents on my maternal side): 1 match (common ancestors)
- **Mary Stanley** (5th great-grandmother on my maternal side): 1 match (common ancestor)
- **Benjamin Rush & Dorcas Vickory** (5th great-grandparents on my maternal side): 1 match (common ancestors)

When sorting these matches by paternal and maternal sides, the results were fairly balanced, with over 50 matches on each side.

These Facebook inquiries, combined with my DNA match analysis, have highlighted an important conclusion: I'm likely not related to these THOMPSON researchers through my THOMPSON line. Despite having a tree that extends back to the 1700s in the United States and over 100,000 DNA matches, searching my matches for surnames alone has not proven very helpful.

Instead, grouping my matches as recommended by [Your DNA Guide](#) has been far more effective in understanding how my DNA matches connect to each other—and ultimately to me.

Herbert Mentzer

By Marcia Crawford Philbrick
January 16, 2025

[Mentzer, Woodson County](#)

<https://heartlandgenealogy.org/2025/01/16/herbert-mentzer-2/>



Herbert Wells Mentzer

Born: July 20, 1900, near Yates Center, Woodson County, Kansas

Died: March 25, 1977, Iola, Allen County, Kansas

Buried: March 28, 1977, LeRoy Cemetery, Coffey County, Kansas

Herbert Wells Mentzer was born on a farm northwest of Yates Center, Kansas, to Charles O. Mentzer. He spent his early years in Woodson and Coffey counties. By 1905, the Mentzer family was living in Neosho Falls, Kansas, and later moved to Liberty Township in Coffey County.

Herbert attended Rosemund School in Coffey County in 1915 and later graduated from Neosho Falls High School around 1917. As a young adult, he registered for the military draft in Neosho Falls in 1918.

Throughout the 1920s, Herbert was active in his community. In 1926, he attended the Wells family reunion in Neosho Falls. On September 17, 1928, he married Ruth Shirley Kitterman in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. The couple welcomed their daughter, Janice Joy Mentzer, on June 11, 1929, in Oklahoma City, where Herbert worked as a locomotive fireman and was also involved in real estate.

By 1930, the Mentzer family was living in Oklahoma City. Herbert continued his work as a locomotive fireman for the Santa Fe Railroad, a career he would pursue for decades. In the mid-1930s, the family relocated to a farm near Talala, Rogers County, Oklahoma, before moving to Shawnee, Pottawatomie County, Oklahoma, by 1940.

In Shawnee, Herbert was employed as a locomotive fireman and lived with his wife Ruth and their children, Joy and Billie R. Mentzer. During this period, Herbert frequently visited family, including his father, Charles O. Mentzer.

In 1942, Herbert registered for the military draft in Coffey County, Kansas. Afterward, the family moved to a farm east of

LeRoy, Coffey County, Kansas. Herbert became a prominent member of his community, serving as a member of the Methodist Church and Tuscan Lodge #82 in Neosho Falls.

In the later years of his life, Herbert transitioned to a career as a real estate broker in Coffey County. He was an active participant in local events, often attending family funerals and reunions.

Herbert Wells Mentzer passed away on March 25, 1977, at Allen County Hospital in Iola, Kansas, at the age of 76. He was buried at LeRoy Cemetery in Coffey County, leaving behind a legacy of hard work, family devotion, and community involvement.

Ruth Shirley Kitterman, wife of Herbert Wells Mentzer

Born: February 6, 1906, Coffey County, Kansas

Died: August 1, 1977, Iola, Allen County, Kansas

Buried: August 4, 1977, LeRoy Cemetery, Coffey County, Kansas

Ruth Shirley Kitterman was born on February 6, 1906, in Coffey County, Kansas. She grew up in the region and pursued an education that prepared her for a career in teaching. Ruth graduated around 1925 and attended Kansas State Teachers College in Emporia, Kansas, between 1926 and 1927. By 1928, she was working as a teacher in Coffey County, Kansas.

On September 17, 1928, Ruth married Herbert Wells Mentzer in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. The couple welcomed their daughter, Janice Joy Mentzer, on June 11, 1929, in Oklahoma City, where they initially settled.

By 1930, Ruth was living with her family in Oklahoma City, and by 1940, they had relocated to Shawnee, Pottawatomie County, Oklahoma. In Shawnee, Ruth managed the household while her husband worked as a locomotive fireman for the Santa Fe Railroad.

After 1940, Ruth and her family moved back to Kansas, settling on a farm near LeRoy in Coffey County. She remained deeply connected to her family and community, attending family funerals and other gatherings.

Later in life, Ruth lived at Sterling Heights Manor in Iola, Kansas. She passed away on August 1, 1977, at the age of 71. Ruth was buried alongside her husband at LeRoy Cemetery in Coffey County, Kansas, leaving a legacy of dedication to her family and community.

Children:

Herbert Wells Mentzer and Ruth Shirley Kitterman had the following children:

Child #1:

Janice Joy Mentzer, 1st child of Herbert Wells Mentzer and his wife Ruth

Born: June 11, 1929, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

Died: March 25, 1982, Iola, Allen County, Kansas

Buried: March 27, 1982, LeRoy Cemetery, Coffey County, Kansas

Janice Joy Mentzer was born on June 11, 1929, in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, to Herbert Wells Mentzer and Ruth Shirley Kitterman. She spent her early years in Oklahoma City, where her family lived and her father worked as a locomotive fireman.

In 1930, Janice was living in Oklahoma City with her parents. By 1940, the family had moved to Shawnee, Pottawatomie County, Oklahoma, where Janice attended Irving School. She continued her education in Shawnee through at least September 1940.

In early 1941, the Mentzer family relocated to Spring Creek Township in Coffey County, Kansas. Janice spent her teenage years in the Le Roy area and eventually married Edward L. Strawder on December 25, 1947, in Coffey County. The

couple made their home in the same area, residing in Spring Creek Township and Le Roy throughout the 1950s.

Janice was actively involved in her community and remained close to her family. She attended the funeral of her uncle, Philip Embry Mentzer, in 1952 and continued to live in the Le Roy area for much of her life.

Janice passed away on March 25, 1982, at the age of 52 in Iola, Kansas. Her funeral was held on March 27, 1982, and she was laid to rest at LeRoy Cemetery in Coffey County, Kansas, leaving behind a legacy of family devotion and community involvement.

Edward L. Strawder – Husband of Janet Joyce Mentzer

Born: October 5, 1924, Neosho Falls, Woodson County, Kansas

Died: May 3, 1994, Burlington, Kansas

Buried: May 5, 1994, LeRoy Cemetery, Coffey County, Kansas

Edward L. Strawder was born on October 5, 1924, in Neosho Falls, Woodson County, Kansas. He grew up in rural Kansas, where he developed a strong connection to his family and community.

On December 25, 1947, Edward married Janice Joy Mentzer in Coffey County, Kansas. The couple settled in the Le Roy area and lived in Spring Creek Township in Coffey County during the early years of their marriage. Edward and Janice remained committed to their local community, actively participating in its life and events.

Between 1970 and 1980, Edward worked as a mechanic at K and W Equipment in Iola, Allen County, Kansas. His work reflected his dedication to providing for his family and supporting his community.

Edward passed away on May 3, 1994, at the age of 69 in Burlington, Kansas. A funeral service was held on May 5, 1994, and he was laid to rest alongside his wife, Janice, at LeRoy Cemetery in Coffey County, Kansas.

Edward L. Strawder is remembered as a hardworking and devoted family man who left a lasting impact on those who knew him.

Child #2:

Billie R. Mentzer, Second child of Herbert Wells Mentzer and his wife Ruth

Born: ~1932, Oklahoma

Died: Before June 1940, Oklahoma

Billie R. Mentzer was born around 1932 in Oklahoma to Herbert Wells Mentzer and Ruth Shirley Kitterman. He spent his early childhood in Shawnee, Pottawatomie County, Oklahoma, where the family resided at 311 West 10th Street in 1940.

Sadly, Billie passed away at a young age, before June 1940, in Oklahoma. He was just 8 years old at the time of his death.

Though his life was brief, Billie is remembered as part of the Mentzer family's history, leaving a legacy of love and loss that his family carried with them.

Friday Find

By Marcia Crawford Philbrick
January 17, 2025

[Mentzer](#)

<https://heartlandgenealogy.org/2025/01/17/friday-find-70/>



Emaline Minnick Mentzer

One of the cherished clippings my grandmother saved is the obituary of her grandmother, Emiline Minnick Mentzer. While the exact source of the clipping is unknown, it is likely from a newspaper in Woodson County, Kansas.

Died – Mentzer

Emaline Minnick was born near Pittsburg, Pa., Aug 26, 1848, at which place she spent her childhood in the home of her parents, John and Mary Minnick. at the age of 12 years her parents with their five daughters and one son moved to Kewanee, Ill., where she attend the public schools and grew to young womanhood. On New Year's day, 1868, she was united in marriage to George Mentzer, living in Kewanee until the pioneer spirit brought them to the state of Kansas where they located on the Mentzer homestead in West Center township in May, 1872. On this place she resided until Feb., 1914, when she moved to Yates Center, where she died Tuesday evening Sept. 13, 1927, at the age of 79 years and 17 days.

To this union 8 children were born and grew to manhood and womanhood. On son, Albert C., in 1919, and one daughter, Susie M. Tunnicliffe, in 1908 and her husband in 1912, having preceded her in death. She was raised in a Christian home and early in life she was converted, uniting with the M. E. church in Kewanee, Ill., and later transferring her membership to Peasant View M.E. church in Woodson county, Kansas, and later to Yates Center, of which church she was a faithful member up to her death. She was one of the truly great Christian characters, who lived each day in faith and humility. Although her last days were spent in suffering, she lived in beautiful resignation and patience.

She leaves to mourn her passing, her sons, C. O., of Neosho Falls, Kansas; J. F., H. A., P. E. and E. E. of Yates Center, and one daughter, Mrs. Clara E. Williams, of Yates, Center, Kansas, and 38 grandchildren and 12 great grandchildren; one sister, Mrs. Ellen Frink of Shenandoah, Iowa, besides other friends and relatives.

Funeral services were held in her memory at the M.E. church, Thursday afternoon, conducted by her pastor, Rev. A. W. Johnson, assisted by the Rev. J. E. Latimer. The pall bearers were six of her grandsons. The body was laid to rest in the family lot by the side of her husband.

Thus passes away another of the early pioneers of Woodson county.

WWI War News

By Marcia Crawford Philbrick
January 18, 2025

[Nemaha County, World War I, WWI](https://heartlandgenealogy.org/2025/01/18/wwi-war-news-3/)

<https://heartlandgenealogy.org/2025/01/18/wwi-war-news-3/>



War News Highlights from the 26 July 1917 Courier Democrat

The 26 July 1917 issue of the *Courier Democrat* provides a vivid glimpse into the war news shaping life on the home front during World War I. From enlistment quotas to the first letters from soldiers overseas, the newspaper captures the impact of the conflict on communities like Nemaha County. This edition sheds light on local contributions to the war effort, updates from the fighting front, and the challenges of meeting military demands, offering a compelling snapshot of life during wartime.

SENECA BOYS RECOMMENDED FOR NON COMS.

Captain Weltmer of Company F. National Guards at Hiawatha has recommended Erle W. Taylor of Seneca as one of the men eligible to the non-commissioned office of sergeant and Lon W. Britt of Atchison has been recommended for the grade of corporal. The recommendations were made to Colonel Wilder S. Metcalf.

THE FIRST LETTER FROM FIGHTING FRONT

W. M. Cornell has received the first letter to a Seneca parent from France. His son Lee is with Pershing's troops. The envelope is marked "Soldiers' Mail" and the letter is marked O. K. by the company censor. Lee wrote his return card in the corner of the envelope but the censor rubbed it out or else compelled Lee to do so. The soldier boys have the privilege of

sending their mail postage collect at the home end. The date line of course reads, "Somewhere in France." One can see by reading the letter that the boys are not allowed to tell anything beyond the most trivial things and his letter is altogether confined to little things of interest only to the family. He says that he is feeling fine. He says that he is still with the pal with whom he crossed. He warns his people that all their mail will be censored and asks the folks to tell everybody "hello." His address is Lee V. Cornell, Headquarters Company 16th Inf. With U. S. Troops in France.

MUST FURNISH 113

The Topeka Capital came out Friday with a tabulated list of Kansas counties giving the quotas and credits for enlistments. The figures showed that Jackson county with a quota of 154 and Brown county with a quota of 206 would only be required to furnish one man each for selective draft but Nemaha county with a quota of 192 would be required to furnish 113 for the draft. Seneca people began to wonder if this county was getting the credit it deserved. County Attorney H. M. Baldwin made the trip to Topeka Saturday and was given every assistance in checking up the list. After he came home he and County Clerk W. L. Kauffman went to Sabetha to check up the list and found the figures to be correct. Nemaha county can only claim credit for 79 enlistments. Of this number, thirty are in the Hiawatha National Guard, nine at Horton, seven at Lawrence, one at Holton and two elsewhere making a total of forty-nine in the National Guard. Twenty-one are in the regular army and the county is given credit for nine more from counties who overran their quotas. Nemaha has 20 navy enlistments.

A county does not receive credit for National Guardsmen outside of the state. (It is known that Nemaha county is furnishing six for Missouri and three for Nebraska.) Neither does the county receive credit for navy enlistments, for any enlistments prior to April 1917 or following June 30, 1917.

Twice the required number to fill the first quota will be asked to report first for physical examinations. This will include the men drawn up to and including 226.

Saturday Night Genealogy Fun

By Marcia Crawford Philbrick

January 19, 2025

[SaturdayNightGenealogyFun](https://heartlandgenealogy.org/2025/01/19/saturday-night-genealogy-fun-140/)

<https://heartlandgenealogy.org/2025/01/19/saturday-night-genealogy-fun-140/>

It's Time for More ...



Saturday Night Genealogy Fun!

Calling all [Genea-Musings](#) Fans:

It's Saturday Night again –

Time for some more Genealogy Fun!!

Come on, everybody, join in and accept the mission and execute it with precision.

1) Share a recent genealogy find about an ancestor or family, such as a new name, document or even a clue towards cracking a brick wall.

Andrew Crawford genealogy research

Even though my recent research has focused on the descendants of Eli Bland, I recently took a detour to work on my Crawford line. Operating under the assumption that my James Crawford line will eventually connect with the other James Crawford families in early Garrard County, Kentucky, I decided to start gathering records from Virginia.

The other James Crawford lines are believed to descend from [James Crawford \[L5FF-1NF\]](#) and his wife, Margery. According to the FamilySearch tree, James and Margery had four sons: John, William, Andrew, and James. Their son

John is thought to be the father of the James Crawford who married Martha Knight in Lincoln County, Kentucky. Their son James is believed to be the James Crawford who owned land on Paint Lick Creek in Garrard County. Their son William is said to have migrated through Kentucky to St. Genevieve, Missouri, before the Louisiana Purchase.

That leaves [Andrew Crawford](#). Since I hadn't come across any records directly connecting Andrew Crawford to these other lines, I decided to use FamilySearch's Experimental Labs to investigate further. This search uncovered a 1776 deed from Botetourt County, Virginia, where Andrew Crawford and his mother, Margery, sold land to Alex Wyley.

At this point, I don't have enough information to definitively connect Andrew and Margery to anyone on the FamilySearch tree. However, this deed is a promising clue. As I continue uncovering more records, I hope to determine which Andrew Crawford sold this land and how he fits into the larger Crawford family puzzle.

Andrew Crawford Deed

Botetourt County, Virginia
Deed Book 2, 1773-1780
Film # 007893747, item 3

"Botetourt, Virginia, United States records," images, FamilySearch
(<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CS4C-9WLW?view=fullText> : Jan 15, 2025), image 65 of 231; .

image 65 of 231
page 235

This Indenture made the second Day of January in the year of our Lord one Thousand seven hundred & seventy six between Andrew Crawford & Margery Crawford his Mother of the County of Botetourt in the Colony of Virginia of the one part & Alexander Wyley of the said County & Colony aforesaid of the other Part Witnesseth that for & in consideration of the Sum of sixty three Pounds current Money of Virginia to the said Andrew Crawford & Margery in Hand paid by the sd Alex Wyley at or before the sealing & Delivery of these Present the Receipt whereof he doth hereby acknowledge & thereof doth release acquit & discharge the said Alex Wyley his Exors & Administrators by these Presents they the said Andw Crawford & Margery hath granted bargained sold aliened & confirmed & by these Presents doth grant bargain sell alien confirm unto the said Alex Wyley & his Heirs one certain Tract of Land containing one hundred & eighty one acres (more or less) lying & being in the County of Botetourt & Colony of Virginia & bounded as follows (ie) Beginning at a Bunch of Linns on the Bank of the North River Corner to Robert McCheney & run with his line & John Wyley ' s North 16 Degrees West 308 Poles to two Pines Corner to the said Wyleys Land thence south 30 Degrees West 200 Poles to three white Oaks Corner to James Campbells thence with his Lines South East 100 Poles to Post thence South west 64 Poles to two Hicorys South East 40 poles to a white Oak North East sixty four poles crossing a branch to [two nd] Oaks South East 6 4 Poles to a Cedar & H[ic]ory on [a steep] Bank on the River then up the River to the Beginning and all Houses Buildings orchards Ways Waters Water Courses Profits Commodities Hereditaments & appurtenances whatever to the said Premises hereby granted on my part thereof belonging or in any wise appertaining & the Reversion & Reversions remains & remainders Rents Issues & Profits thereof & also all the Estate

Right Title Interest use [trust] Property Claim & Demand
 whatsoever of him the said Alexander Wiley of in & to the said
 Premise and all Deeds Evidences & writings touching or in any
 wise concerning the same To have & to hold the same hereby
 conveyed & all & singular other the Premises hereby bargained
 & sold & every part & parcel thereof with their & every of their
 appurtenances unto the said Alex Wiley his Heirs & Assigns
 forever to the only proper use & Behoof of him the said Alexr Wiley
 & of his Heirs & assigns forever And the said Andw Crawford and

page 236

Margery Crawford his Mother pr hims of his Heirs Exrs
 & admistrators doth covenant promise & grant to & with
 the said Alexr Wyley his Heirs & assigns by these Presents t
 hat the said Andrew Crawford & Margery now at the Time of sealing
 and delivering of these Presents seized of a good sure perfect &
 indefeasable Estate of Inheritance in fee simple of & in the
 [inmisor] hereby bargained & sold & that he hath good Power &
 lawful & absolute authority to grant & convey the same to the
 said Alexr Wyley in Manner & form aforesaid and that the
 said Premises now are & so forever here after shall remain &
 [] free & clear from all former & other G[ifts] Grants Bargain
 sales Dower Right & Title of Dower judgments Executions
 Titles Tenables Charges & Encumbrances whatsoever made
 done committed or afixed by the said Andrew Crawford
 sd Margery or any other person or Persons whatsoever (the Q
 quit rents hereafter to grow due & payable to our sovereign
 Lord the King his heirs & sucessors for & in Respect of the
 Premises only excepted & foreprised , & that the said Andw
 Crawford & sd Margery & his heirs all & singular the [premises]
 hereby bargained & sold with the appurtenances unto the
 said Alexr Wyley his Heirs & assigns against them the
 said Andw Crawford & Margery & their Heirs & all & every other
 Person & persons this & their heirs anything having or claiming in the Premises herein before mentioned or
 intended to be hereby bargained & sold shall & will from
 time to Time & at all Times hereafter at the reasonable
 Request & at the proper cost & charges in the Law him
 The said Alexander Wyley & her Heirs or assigns make
 so & Execute or cause or procure to be made done & executed
 all & every such further & other lawful & reasonable act
 acts thing & things conveyance & assurances for the
 further better & more perfect conveying & assuring the [premises]
 aforesaid with their & every of their appurtenances unto
 the said Alexander Wyley & his Heirs & assigns as by the said
 Alexr Wyley & his heirs
 or assigns or their Council [learned]
 in the [same] shall be reasonably devised advised or required
 In Witness whereof the -sd Andw Crawford hath hereunto set his Hand
 & Seal the Day & year first above written
 Andrew Crawford (seal)
 Margery (her mark) Crawford (seal)

Sealed & delivered
 in the presence of
 John Gabriel Jones [P A] Lockart
 John Armstrong Geo . Rutledge

Thos Bowyer Jr Christion Samuel
Walker Wm McNeil James Ritchey
George Poage

At a Court held for Botetourt County the 14th of May 1776

This Indenture was proved by the Oaths of George Rutledge

Thos Bawyer & George Poage Witnesses & ordered to be recorded

Teste John May C BC

Relative Finder

By Marcia Crawford Philbrick
January 20, 2025

[Uncategorized](#)
<https://heartlandgenealogy.org/2025/01/20/relative-finder/>

Have you ever wondered if you're related to someone famous? Randy Seaver's recent *Randy's Cousin* post about his connection to Warren G. Harding inspired me to find out if I, too, am related to the 29th President of the United States.

Using the link Randy shared to [Relative Finder](#), I discovered that I am a 7th cousin 3 times removed to Warren G. Harding.

Relative Finder
v2.0

HomeGroupsRequestsConnectHelpContact



7th Cousin 3 times removed

U.S. Presidents

Marcia Philbrick
LD33-4DF
Mother/Father Chain:
MFFFMMFMMFF

Download PDF

Chart Options

Warren Gamaliel Harding
2B2X-SLL
Mother/Father Chain:
MFFFMMFF
Learn More:
Warren_G_Harding



Mary Purrier
1628-1696
MXJ5-86L



Thomas Reeve
1611-1650
KN8G-TRB



Mary Purrier
1628-1696
LHLQ-XPX



Intrigued, I conducted another search to check for a connection to President Jimmy Carter—and it turns out, I'm related to him as well!

Relative Finder
v2.0

HomeGroupsRequestsConnectHelpContact

Marcia Philbrick
LD33-4DF
Mother/Father Chain:
MMFFMMFFMMFF

U.S. Presidents

Download PDF

Chart Options

Jimmy Carter
CRTR-JMY
Mother/Father Chain:
FFMFMMFMFFFF
Learn More:
en.wikipedia.org

James Waters
1568-1617
LCXB-BM7

Phebe Manning
1576-1642
LKKM-V1Y

Although my family tree doesn't currently go far enough back to verify these relationships, exploring [Relative Finder](#) has been an entertaining way to uncover potential connections to historical figures. It's a fun tool for anyone curious about their famous relatives!

WW2 War News

By Marcia Crawford Philbrick

January 21, 2025

[World War II, WWII](#)

<https://heartlandgenealogy.org/2025/01/21/ww2-war-news-2/>



No Private Gain In Aluminum

Waste Material Dealers Allowed Cost Only

No individual will receive a profit in the aluminum-aid-to-arms drive which will be conducted in Nemaha County and throughout Kansas next week, says Frank Sullivan, chairman of the campaign for Kansas.

In Nemaha, the mayors and chairmen of the county commissioners supervise the collection and disposal through waste material dealers. These dealers will be reimbursed only for the cost of sorting, preparing, and shipping to smelters.

When the metal reaches a smelter, the smelter will settle by check, payable to the National Scrap Aluminum Fund. These checks will be sent to Federal Reserve banks. A copy of the voucher paid on the collections in this area will be sent to local chairmen and will be available for publication. It will show the amount of aluminum received, the rate at which it was paid for, value of rejections at smelting plants and at dealers' yards, total amount paid for costs, and total amount remitted by the smelters to the National Fund.

Courier Tribune (Seneca, Kansas) 17 Jul 1941, page 1



Transcription Success

By Marcia Crawford Philbrick
January 22, 2025

[Bland, Missouri](#)

<https://heartlandgenealogy.org/2025/01/22/transcription-success/>



Unlocking County Histories with Modern Tools

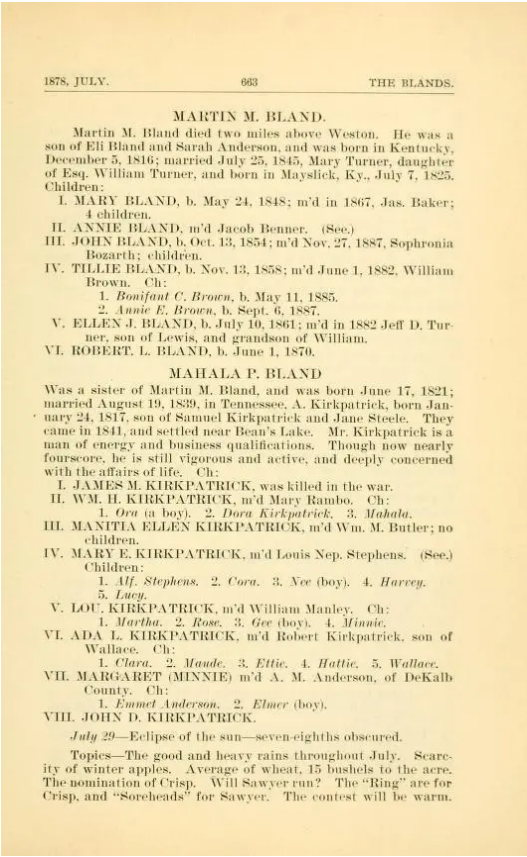
Have you used county histories in your genealogical research? These invaluable resources often hold detailed information about families, local events, and community development. If you're like me, you might have photocopies or digital images of pages from these histories tucked away in your files. For years, I manually typed the text from those pages to incorporate them into my genealogy documentation. But now, with the help of [ChatGPT](#), transcribing these images has become a quick and seamless process.

Recently, while researching my BLAND cousins in Platte County, Missouri, I remembered using *Annals of Platte County* during the early days of my genealogy journey. At the time, I only captured a portion of the BLAND family information from the book. Luckily, I discovered that [Annals of Platte County](#) is available on [Internet Archive](#), allowing me to revisit it and locate all references to the BLAND family. I saved these pages as images for further use.

Knowing that Adobe Acrobat includes Optical Character Recognition (OCR) capabilities, I decided to try converting the images into text. Unfortunately, the OCR struggled to accurately recognize the text, leaving me with a less-than-usable result.

That's when I turned to ChatGPT. I uploaded one of the images and asked it to transcribe the content. Not only did it transcribe the text flawlessly, but it also preserved the format of the family information, saving me valuable time. Now, I have both the original image and a clean, accurate transcription that I can incorporate into my genealogy documentation.

Thanks to tools like ChatGPT, it's easier than ever to breathe new life into these historical resources and ensure the stories they contain are preserved for future generations.



1878, JULY

663

THE BLANDS.

MARTIN M. BLAND.

Martin M. Bland died two miles above Weston. He was a son of Eli Bland and Sarah Anderson, and was born in Kentucky, December 5, 1816; married July 25, 1845, Mary Turner, daughter of Esq. William Turner, and born in Mayslick, Ky., July 7, 1825.

Children:

I. **MARY BLAND**, b. May 24, 1848; m'd in 1867, Jas. Baker; 4 children.

II. **ANNIE BLAND**, m'd Jacob Benner. (See.)

III. **JOHN BLAND**, b. Oct. 13, 1854; m'd Nov. 27, 1887, Sophronia Bozarth; children.

IV. **TILLIE BLAND**, b. Nov. 13, 1858; m'd June 1, 1882, William Brown. Ch.:

1. **Bonifant C. Brown**, b. May 11, 1885.

2. **Annie E. Brown**, b. Sept. 6, 1887.

V. **ELLEN J. BLAND**, b. July 10, 1861; m'd in 1882 Jeff D. Turner, son of Lewis and grandson of William.

VI. **ROBERT L. BLAND**, b. June 1, 1870.

MAHALA F. BLAND.

Was a sister of Martin M. Bland, and was born June 17, 1821; married August 19, 1839, in Tennessee, A. Kirkpatrick, born January 24, 1817, son of Samuel Kirkpatrick and Jane Steele. They came in 1841 and settled near Bean's Lake. Mr. Kirkpatrick is a man of energy and business qualifications. Though now nearly fourscore, he is still vigorous and active, and deeply concerned with the affairs of life. Ch.:

I. **JAMES M. KIRKPATRICK**, was killed in the war.

II. **WM. H. KIRKPATRICK**, m'd Mary Rambo. Ch.:

Print My Blog

By Marcia Crawford Philbrick

January 23, 2025

[Uncategorized](#)

<https://heartlandgenealogy.org/2025/01/23/print-my-blog/>



Do you have a blog? If so, have you ever considered preserving its content as a PDF or even a book? I used to rely on Blog2Print for this, but since that service is no longer available, I've been exploring new options.

Because I use a WordPress blog, I decided to try the [Print My Blog](#) plug-in to compile and print my posts for 2024. Here's how the process works:

1. **Add Content to the 'Book':** The first step is organizing the blog posts you want to include.
2. **Generate the File:** Clicking "Generate" opens a window where you can view and print the content in your browser.
3. **Save as a PDF:** Once in the browser, I saved the content as a PDF to my computer.

Available Content

Search Posts, Pages, Custom Post Ty

Show Filters

AI Newspaper Hints

Saturday Night Genealogy Fun

Saturday Tidbits

Friday Find

Thompson Land Question

Mystery Thompson Deed

Purple Heart

Thompson Will

Saturday Night Genealogy

Select All

Deselect All

Chosen Project Content

Body

Aristippus Brown Part 2

Purple Heart

Another Son

False Lead

Friday Find

Saturday Tidbits

Drag or click here

Back Matter

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Generate Print Page

Generate and View Your File

Your project is ready to be generated! Clicking "Generate" will compile your content into a print-page.
Read the User Guide on [updating](#), [generating the pro file](#), and [getting help](#).

Updated project content.

Heartland Genealogy Blog Posts

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Edit Content

Edit Metadata

Clear Cached Resources

Get Help

[← Back](#)

Print My Blog — Pro Print

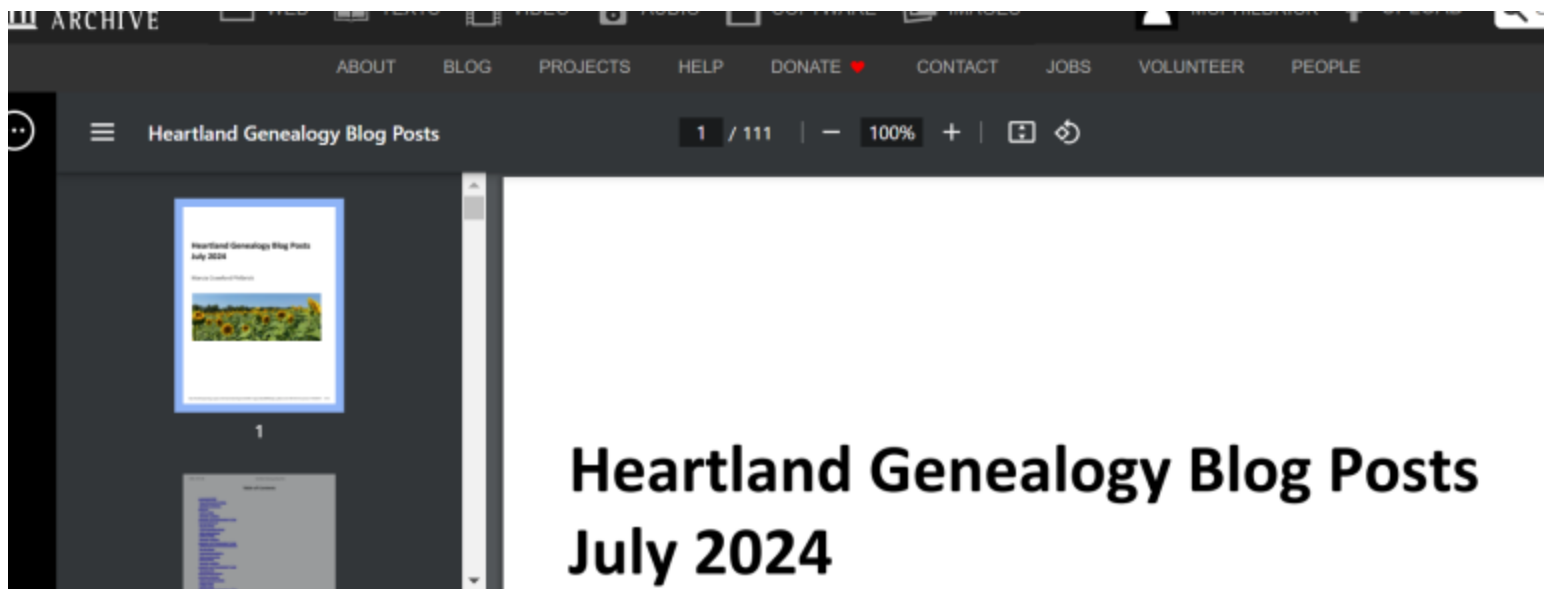
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[Read how your data is handled](#)

Heartland Genealogy Blog Posts

After making a few minor edits, I re-saved the PDF and uploaded it to my [Archive.org](#) account for safe storage and sharing.

This process has been a great way to preserve my blog's content and ensure it remains accessible for years to come. Have you tried something similar? I'd love to hear about your experiences!

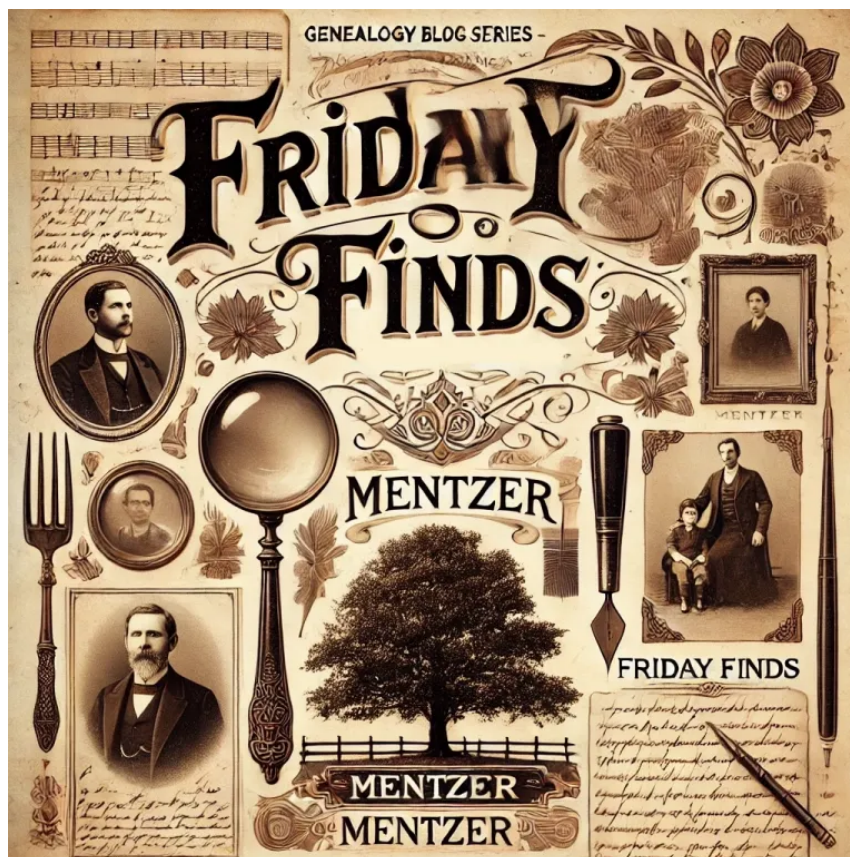


Friday Find

By Marcia Crawford Philbrick
January 24, 2025

[Mentzer, Woodson County](https://heartlandgenealogy.org/2025/01/24/friday-find-71/)

<https://heartlandgenealogy.org/2025/01/24/friday-find-71/>



Mentzer Family Files

The Mentzer family history comes alive through treasured documents that provide a glimpse into their lives and legacy. One such document is the heartfelt obituary of Anna May Wells Mentzer, a devoted wife, mother, and community member, whose story reflects the pioneer spirit and resilience of early settlers in Woodson County, Kansas. This post explores her life and contributions, as well as other insights from the Mentzer family files, preserving the memory of a remarkable woman and her enduring impact.

DIED Mentzer

Anna May Wells, eldest daughter of Thurston and Salome Crandall-Wells, was born June 12, 1868, at Pleasant Hill, Iowa, where she lived until three years of age, when she came to Woodson County, Kansas, to the old homestead in the Pleasant View community, where she attended the rural school of her day, and grew to young womanhood.

During her young girlhood, she was converted at the meetings held in the old rural schoolhouse, later joining the Christian church at Yates Center, of which she has been a faithful member during her entire life. The last time she was able to leave home was to attend the pre-Easter service at the church. At the age of 16 years, she entered the teaching profession and was one of Woodson County's best teachers for several years.

While a young girl, her parents retired to Yates Center, where a short time later both of her parents died within a few

months, leaving her and her sister alone.

On March 27, 1895, she was united in marriage to J. F. Mentzer, the ceremony being read by the late Elder G. H. Lamb. They went immediately to the home where she has lived during forty-three years of married life, and in this home were born her eight children. About two years ago she was left in poor health after a severe illness and has been a patient sufferer in all her sickness. About two weeks ago she was taken seriously ill, and passed away Saturday morning, May 7, 1938, at the age of almost 70 years.

She leaves to mourn her passing her husband, J. F. Mentzer, her sons, Fred Mentzer of Los Angeles, Calif.; and Harley Mentzer of Yates Center, Kansas; her six daughters, Mrs. Hazel Harold and Mrs. Cecile Beine of Yates Center; Miss Pearl ...

Mentzer, Mrs. Marjorie Weide, Mrs. Mildred Van Valkenburg of Los Angeles, Calif.; and Mrs. Aleta Tolle of Enid, Okla., and her fifteen grandchildren; also her brother, Wm. H. Wells of Milton, Iowa, and her sister, Mrs. Nettie Mentzer of Neosho, many nieces and nephews, and a host of relatives and friends.

Her father and mother, brother Frank Wells and Freddy and sister Mary Wells preceded her in death.

She came to Woodson County, Kansas in the pioneer days of the '70's. She has seen the plains blossom, from barren treeless prairie to the homes of today, she has witnessed the building of Yates Center and the development of our schools and churches in which she ever took a vital interest—giving her children education possible in grade and high school, and helping the community in which she lived by always helping the Sunday School and church.

Since coming to our community, living in our midst for over forty-three years she has made a place for herself which never can be filled.

As a neighbor and friend she had the true pioneer spirit of bringing messages of kindness, helpfulness and cheer to all those with whom she came in contact.

There never was a night too dark, or a day too cold for her to go to befriend anyone in time of need.

Funeral services were held Monday afternoon, at 2:30 from the Christian church, with Rev. R. C. Harding officiating. Burial was in Yates Center cemetery.

WWI War News

By Marcia Crawford Philbrick
January 25, 2025

[Nemaha County, World War I, WWI](https://heartlandgenealogy.org/2025/01/25/wwi-war-news-4/)

<https://heartlandgenealogy.org/2025/01/25/wwi-war-news-4/>



War News Highlights from the 2 August 1917 Courier Democrat

The 2 August 1917 issue of the *Courier Democrat* offers a fascinating glimpse into the lives of local soldiers during World War I. One article highlights the dedication of Corning boys who gave up comfortable jobs to serve in the Kansas National Guard and the Signal Corps. Another shares a letter from a Seneca boy stationed in France, providing a heartfelt account of his experiences adjusting to life overseas while contributing to the war effort. These stories capture the sacrifices and resilience of small-town heroes during a pivotal time in history.

CORNING SOLDIER BOYS

Word has been received that Harry Whitney has enlisted in the Signal Corps and has left for a fort in Arizona for training. Guy Axe and Ralph McDaniel arrived in Corning Monday for a visit with their parents and friends. Guy and Ralph are members of a hospital corps of the Kansas National Guard and will be called into the Federal Service August 5th. The boys gave up good positions in the Santa Fe offices at Topeka to serve their country. Dr. Heuschele has been promoted to the rank of captain. Dr. Maxon has received his commission as First Lieutenant of the Medical Reserve Corps.

In a letter from Orville Tomlinson he says: "I am eating everything they put in front of me and am getting fat. We, or rather the band, are not allowed to carry firearms except a .38 Colt's automatic and are given training in rifle work in order to fill in, in case we are needed. We have a fine place to swim in and good shower baths and all that a fellow could ask for. Both my arms are sore, vaccinated in the left arm and inoculated in the right. We are going to be sent to New York to join the sixth regiment and from there to France but I don't know how soon. Write and tell the other fellows to write. My

address is Marine Barracks, Quantico, Virginia (Band).” — *Corning Gazette*.

ANOTHER LETTER FROM SENECA BOY IN FRANCE

Allen Coles with Pershing's Troops Tells the Home Folks of His Experiences.

Dear Sis and All:

I expect you think I am pretty slow about writing. We have been busy getting settled. Did you get my cablegram? We are not allowed to write anything about military dope, so don't expect it. You know more about what is going on than we do anyway. This is a different country than I expected to find. They have much different ways than the American people. They are very friendly and do all they can for us, but it is hard to understand them. If I only had your knowledge of French I would be right in it. We know how a fellow feels that comes to the States that can't talk our language but we will learn as they do. This is a great country for wine. Everybody drinks it. There are a good many vineyards and as good gardens as I ever saw. They farm every acre they can. Well, enough of that.

I was made mechanic while coming over. It is a different work than I expected it would be. It is more carpenter work than anything else, no machinery, like I was used to handling. I get \$6.00 more a month and if we get 20 per cent I'll get \$42.00.

I got a letter from Embert as I left the States. Just two months today we both left Fort Logan. We had mail call last night. I only got one postal. That was forwarded from El Paso from Mrs. L. D. Allen. I got the paper, too. You call Mr. Adrience and tell him where to send the paper. Address my mail "Mechanic Allen E. Coles, Co. H. 16th Inf., 1st American Exp., France." Tell them all not to be afraid to write. With love to all, Allen.

Saturday Night Genealogy Fun

By Marcia Crawford Philbrick

January 26, 2025

[Foster, SaturdayNightGenealogyFun](#)

<https://heartlandgenealogy.org/2025/01/26/saturday-night-genealogy-fun-141/>

It's Time for More ...



Saturday Night Genealogy Fun!

Calling all [Genea-Musings](#) Fans:

It's Saturday Night again –

Time for some more Genealogy Fun!!

Come on, everybody, join in and accept the mission and execute it with precision.

1) What is the most unusual cause of death you have discovered for your ancestors?

2) Tell us about the most unusual cause of death you found in your own blog post, in a comment on this post, or in a Facebook Status post. Please leave a link on this post if you write your own post.

[Thank you to Linda Stufflebean for suggesting this topic!]

If not for a newspaper article, I likely wouldn't have been able to answer this prompt, as I often overlook the cause of death in my research.

My fourth-great-grandfather, Richard Foster, passed away in 1831 from hydrophobia, better known as rabies. His

harrowing battle with the disease was documented in multiple newspapers across Ohio, providing a vivid account of his final days.

From the Huron Reflector (Norwalk, Ohio)

HYDROPHOBIA.

A Mr. Foster, a middle-aged gentleman, who resided in the vicinity of Chillicothe, was met, in returning, probably from his farm, seized, and severely bitten by a mad dog. Mr. Foster applied the actual cautery to the wound, and used other precautionary measures. The wound soon healed, and he felt no other inconvenience for about six weeks. He then felt a pain in the bitten hand, which progressed upwards to the shoulder. Physicians were called, but without effect. He died in extreme agony, yesterday week, in about 36 hours. He was parched with an excessive thirst, but the exhibition of water, or other liquid, produced instant spasms and insensibility. His madness led to no manifestation of a disposition to injure any one. The case was a clear one, of hydrophobia, produced by the bite of a mad dog. A child and several animals are said to have also died from the bite of the same dog.

— Lancaster, (O.) Gaz.

7 July 1831

From The Sandusky Clarion (Sandusky, Ohio)

CHILLICOTHE, June 15.

Death by Hydrophobia.

It becomes our melancholy task to state, that about seven weeks since, Mr. Richard Foster, a citizen of Pike county, was bitten on the wrist, by his own dog in attempting to chain him, after he had discovered signs of canine madness. Immediately after the occurrence of this accident, Mr. Foster resorted to slight precautionary remedies to arrest the effects of the bite—such as applying salt to the wound and being cupped. He experienced no pain, nor was there the slightest indication of any symptom of disease until the fortieth day—Saturday week last—when he felt a twitching pain in his wrist, accompanied by a slight local inflammation about the wound. Being somewhat alarmed, he came to town on that day to consult one of our physicians; and returned home the same afternoon. On the succeeding evening (Sunday) he was taken with a chill which was followed by fever, and an increased pain of the bitten wrist and arm. On Monday morning, whilst he was sitting at breakfast with his family, the first positive symptom of hydrophobia developed itself, in his attempting to drink a cup of coffee. Medical aid was immediately resorted to, but to no purpose—the fatal disease had taken firm hold; and such was its rapid strides that he expired in a little over twenty-four hours from its general development, in the most excruciating agony.

We cannot avoid the opportunity, which this melancholy case presents, of putting the public on their guard against permitting dogs to run at large at this season of the year. The evils to society in the loss of valuable lives, might incalculably be great. And in no place should this precaution be more rigidly observed than in our towns and villages, where dogs seem to constitute a part of almost every household.

Surely the life of one individual is of more value, than all the dogs within the corporation; or, within the county itself, and where the danger is so imminent, no precaution—no preventive should be omitted, or avoided, to guard our citizens from the consequences of a disease, which, of all human maladies, is the most appalling, the most horrible, & the most fatal.

— Scioto Gazette.

6 July 1831, page 2

From the weekly Plain Dealer (Cleveland, Ohio)

From the Chillicothe Advertiser, June 11.

HYDROPHOBIA.—A most distressing case of this malady occurred in this vicinity a few days since. An old and very respectable citizen of Pike county, Richard Foster, Esq., was bitten by his own dog, on the 24th of April. On the day previous the dog had bitten one or two other dogs, and had made an attempt to bite two of the children, but was prevented by Mrs. Foster.

Mr. Foster thought it prudent to tie up his dog; although at the time he appeared perfectly tame and docile—and took the animal gently by the ears, and while the son applied the rope, the dog bit him, one tusk entered on the upper, and the other on the lower side of the wrist.

Mr. F. applied to a neighboring physician, and had the wound cupped about three quarters of an hour after, and took some light medicines, supposing it doubtful whether his dog was mad or not. The wound healed in the usual time, and no symptoms of disease were felt, till forty-one days afterwards. He then felt a tingling numb pain shoot from the place of the wound downwards through the fingers and upwards through the arm, extending to the breast; the pain came and went at intervals of a few moments. On the 4th inst., Mr. F. went to Chillicothe and consulted two eminent physicians, who gave it as their opinion, that the disease had commenced. He returned home and spent the night tolerably well. On the next morning he was bled, which gave him some relief; but as the day advanced the symptoms increased, and he passed the next night badly.

On the morning of the 6th, the tingling pain appeared to extend into the muscles of the breast. He attempted to drink coffee; and in swallowing the third spoonful, the throat revolted, and forced it back through the mouth and nose with violence; for a few seconds this was followed by convulsive motions of the throat. Being perfectly sane, he was bled again, and had blisters applied to his wrists, which afforded considerable relief. At 10 o'clock he took an opium pill, and to wash it down, attempted to swallow tea, which was rejected with shudderings and horrid feelings; after which about every five minutes he gave a heaving sigh, occasioned by the contraction of the muscles engaged in respiration. This continued till the two Chillicothe physicians arrived, about 4 o'clock in the afternoon—when he was again offered coffee, which brought on powerful rejective convulsions—four in quick succession, with great distress.

The cool air, or noise of water, and the trickling of the blood in bleeding, would throw him into convulsions. On the morning of the 7th, he exhibited great prostrations of muscular strength, occasioned principally by the ravages of the disease; yet he was perfectly sane, calm and collected, and commenced arranging his worldly business, but before his will was ready for signing, became very sick; accompanied with horrible rackings at the stomach, in efforts to vomit; during which, there came up about half a pint of dark secreted fluid, the color of strong coffee, but thick and sizzly. After which he breathed calmly for a short time, and then expired without a struggle, precisely at 12 o'clock.

All the animals bit by the same dog, run mad a few days prior to the death of Mr. Foster.
5 July 1831, page 2

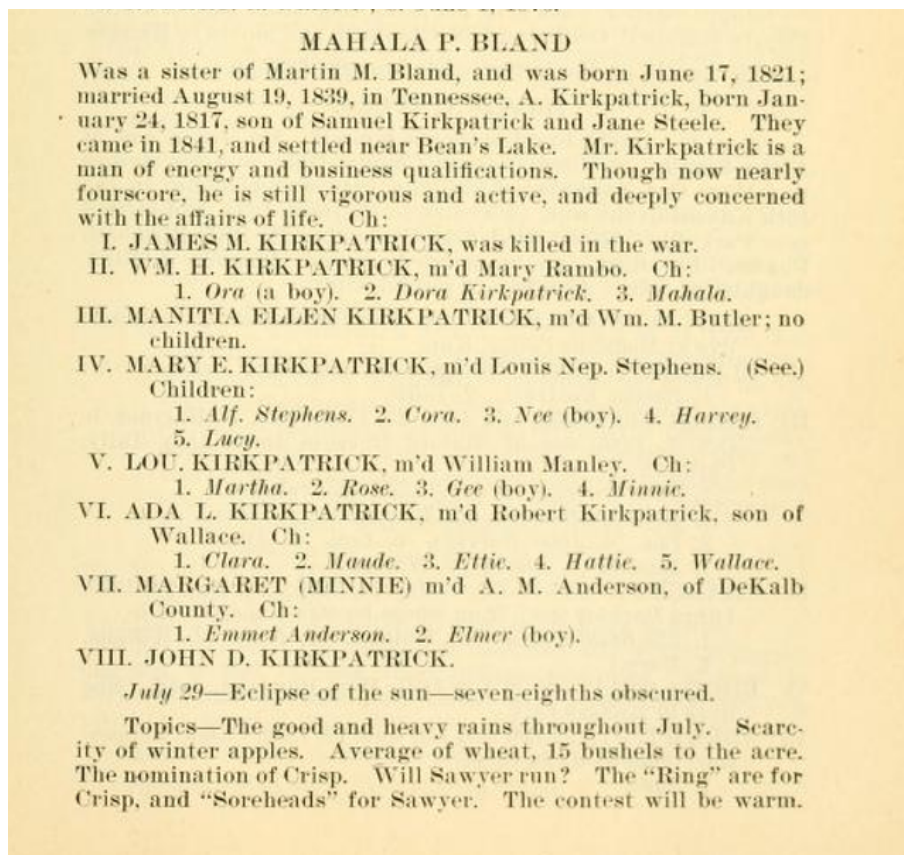
Kirkpatrick Cousins

By Marcia Crawford Philbrick

January 27, 2025

[Bland, Missouri](#)

<https://heartlandgenealogy.org/2025/01/27/kirkpatrick-cousins/>



Do You Conduct Descendancy Research?

Have you ever explored descendancy research? While this type of research can be time-consuming, it's often pursued to help identify DNA matches. Personally, while I hope my descendancy research leads to DNA connections, my primary goal is usually to uncover clues that might help me trace my lineage back another generation.

One of my 2024 genealogy goals was to research the descendants of my 4th great-grandfather, Elijah Bland. Although records for Elijah remain somewhat elusive, I've discovered that several of his children migrated to Platte County, Missouri. Thankfully, the book *Annals of Platte County* provides a wealth of information and serves as an excellent starting point for tracing the descendants of Elijah's daughter, Mahala, and her husband, Alfred Kirkpatrick.

Descendants of Mahala Bland and Alfred Kirkpatrick

Descendant List of Mahala P. Bland	13 January 2025
1-Mahala P. Bland; born: 17 June 1821, Monroe, Kentucky, United States; died: 16 March 1904, Missouri, United States +Alfred Kirkpatrick; born: 24 January 1817, Jackson, Tennessee, United States; marr: 19 August 1839, Tennessee, United States; died: 6 January 1905, Platte City, Platte, Missouri, United States 2-James M. Kirkpatrick; born: about 1842, Missouri, United States; died: about 1865 2-William H. Kirkpatrick; born: 21 January 1845, Missouri, United States; died: 15 September 1914, Platte City, Platte, Missouri, United States +Mary Jane Rambo; born: 1 January 1851; marr: 10 January 1872, Platte City, Platte, Missouri, United States; died: 24 April 1928, Platte City, Platte, Missouri, United States 3-Ora Kirkpatrick; born: 8 September 1877, Missouri; died: 22 August 1967, Rushville, Buchanan, Missouri, United States +Hallie Bethene Edwards; born: 24 August 1895, Platte, Missouri, United States; died: 12 February 1970, Atchison, Atchison, Kansas, United States 4-James Everett Kirkpatrick; born: 5 March 1919, Marshall Township, Platte, Missouri, United States; died: 4 November 1972, Tustin, Orange, California, United States 4-Pauline June Kirkpatrick; born: 21 September 1921, Marshall Township, Platte, Missouri, United States; died: 7 February 2012, Overland Park, Johnson, Kansas, United States 4-Ora Helen Kirkpatrick; born: 1924; died: 2018 4-Frances E. Kirkpatrick; born: 1927; died: 2020 3-Dora Kirkpatrick; born: 21 November 1878, Rushville, Buchanan, Missouri, United States; died: 24 June 1957, Marshall Township, Platte, Missouri, United States +Samuel M. Weldin; born: 10 August 1873, Platte, Missouri, United States; died: 12 October 1926, Marshall Township, Platte, Missouri, United States 4-Edna Mae Weldin; born: 21 August 1901, Missouri City, Fort Bend, Texas, USA; died: 5 November 1977, Atchison, Atchison County, Kansas, United States of America 4-Mary Edith Weldin; born: 1904, Missouri, United States; died: 20 December 1961, Missouri, United States 4-Eva Beatrice Weldin; born: 1907, Missouri, United States; died: 11 February 1967 4-Evelyn Ruth Weldin; born: 28 December 1910, Bean Lake Station, Platte, Missouri, United States; died: 2 July 1938, Rushville, Buchanan, Missouri, United States 3-Mahala Kirkpatrick; born: 17 February 1892, Rushville, Buchanan, Missouri, United States; died: 4 June 1959, Rushville, Buchanan, Missouri, United States +Lyman Everett Daniel; born: 28 April 1882, West Plains, Howell, Missouri, United States; died: 4 May 1957, Atchison, Atchison, Kansas, United States 4-Mary S Daniel; born: 15 October 1910, Rushville, Buchanan, Missouri, United States; died: 27 August 2016, Muenster, Cooke, Texas, United States 4-Mayme F Daniel; born: 26 May 1913, Missouri; died: 7 November 1996, Atchison, Atchison, Kansas, United States 4-Lyman Everett Daniel Jr; born: 26 June 1920, Missouri; died: 29 July 2011 2-Manitia Ellen Kirkpatrick; born: 1847, Missouri, United States; died: 21 July 1923, Rushville, Buchanan, Missouri, United States +William F Butler; born: 1 April 1858, Overton, Tennessee, United States; marr: 22 March 1871, Platte, Missouri, United States; died: 2-Mary Etta Kirkpatrick; born: 12 June 1849, Platte, Missouri, United States; died: 14 February 1927, Gentry, Missouri, United States +Louis Napoleon Stephens; born: 24 July 1849, Platte, Missouri, United States; marr: ; died: 24 September 1913, St. Joseph, Buchanan, Missouri, United States 3-William Alf Stephens; born: 9 August 1872, Platte, Missouri, United States; died: 7 November 1938,	
1	

13 January 2025	Descendant List of Mahala P. Bland
Weston, Platte, Missouri, United States +Mary Cowell Steele; born: 28 July 1878, Halls Station, Wayne Township, Buchanan, Missouri, United States; marr: 22 December 1897, Platte City, Platte, Missouri, United States; died: 2 July 1954, Stockton, San Joaquin, California, United States 4-Eva Mae Stephens; born: 11 July 1898, Weston, Platte, Missouri, United States; died: 18 August 1982, Leavenworth, Leavenworth, Kansas, United States 4-Christine Elgie Stephens; born: 19 February 1901, Weston, Platte, Missouri, United States; died: 22 January 1983, Leavenworth, Leavenworth, Kansas, United States 4-Pocahontas Wilma Stephens; born: 11 January 1903, Platte, Missouri, United States; died: 4 April 1961, Kansas City, Jackson, Missouri, United States 4-Grace Stephens; born: 20 April 1905, Missouri, United States; died: 6 February 1990 4-Anna E Stephens; born: 1907, Missouri, United States; died: 4-Welbie D Stephens; born: 21 January 1909, Platte, Missouri, United States; died: 16 May 1975, Weston, Platte, Missouri, United States 4-Geraldine F Stephens; born: 1916, Missouri, United States; died: 1961 3-Cora E. Stephens; born: 25 December 1874, Weston, Platte, Missouri, United States; died: 15 August 1968, Kansas City, Wyandotte, Kansas, United States +James M Montague; born: 1866, Kentucky, United States; died: 4-Lena Marie Montague; born: 14 January 1902, Mapleton, Bourbon County, Kansas, United States; died: 17 December 1996, Lathrop, Clinton, Missouri, United States 3-Dee Emmett Stephens; born: 19 February 1877, Missouri, United States; died: 12 August 1952, Portland, Multnomah, Oregon, United States +Annie Bowman; born: 1878, Missouri; marr: 15 October 1902, St. Joseph, Buchanan, Missouri, United States; died: 19 November 1968, Vallejo, Solano, California, United States 4-Thelma Stephens; born: 8 August 1903, Missouri, United States; died: 2 April 1974, Vallejo, Solano, California, United States 4-William Lewis Stephens; born: 1907, Missouri, United States; died: 23 November 1967, Portland, Multnomah, Oregon, United States 4-Lindsay C. Stephens; born: 23 October 1910, Missouri, United States; died: 27 March 1969, St. Joseph, Buchanan, Missouri, United States 4-Emmett Woodrow Stephens; born: 21 January 1913, King City, Gentry, Missouri, United States; died: 22 August 1987, Meriden, Connecticut 4-Delbert Clinton Stephens; born: 18 November 1914, King City, Gentry, Missouri, United States; died: 14 September 1978, Solano, California 3-James Harvey Stephens; born: April 1879, Missouri, United States; died: 3 September 1922, Weston, Platte, Missouri, United States +Callie Williams; born: 26 April 1890, New Market, Platte, Missouri; marr: 19 March 1908, Leavenworth, Kansas, United States; died: 25 August 1964, Elgin, Kane, Illinois, United States 4-James Jenkin Stephens; born: 15 January 1909, New Market, Polk, Missouri, United States; died: 29 October 1980 4-Laverne Claire Stephens; born: 2 December 1910, Weston, Platte, Missouri, United States; died: 14 February 1976, Elgin, Kane, Illinois, United States 4-Leo Arnold Stephens; born: 17 March 1913, Weston, Platte, Missouri, United States; died: 7 August 1962, Round Lake, Illinois 3-Lucy May Stephens; born: 25 October 1881; died: 1918 +Frank Asbury Dyer; born: 23 August 1880, Atchison, Kansas, United States; marr: 15 September 1909, Leavenworth, Kansas, United States; died: 22 November 1924, Kansas City, Wyandotte, Kansas, United States	
2	

Descendant List of Mahala P. Bland	13 January 2025
4-Francis Joseph Dyer; born: 21 July 1911, Missouri, United States; died: June 1974, Golden, Jefferson, Colorado, United States 3-Louis Theodore Stephens; born: 21 April 1884, Marshall Township, Platte, Missouri, United States; died: 3 February 1953, Weston, Platte, Missouri, United States +Flossie M Green; born: 27 April 1892, Gentry, Missouri, United States; marr: 12 April 1911, St. Joseph, Buchanan, Missouri, United States; died: 3 September 1977, Kansas City, Wyandotte, Kansas, United States 4-Irene Lee Stephens; born: 20 September 1914, Gentryville, Gentry, Missouri, United States; died: 2 June 1999, Shawnee, Johnson, Kansas, United States 4-Addie Elizabeth Stephens; born: 21 December 1916, Gentryville, Gentry, Missouri, United States; died: 3 January 2002, St. Joseph, Buchanan, Missouri, United States 4-Mary Mae Stephens; born: 1928, Gentry, Missouri, United States; died: 1953, Missouri, United States 3-Mahala Mabel Stephens; born: 12 August 1886, Missouri; died: 9 April 1889, Platte, Missouri, United States 3-Frank Mathew Stephens; born: 6 May 1889, Weston, Platte, Missouri, United States; died: 26 May 1939 +Gladys Marie Buckley; born: 1896, Idaho, United States; died: 4-Sidney Stephens; born: 1916, Illinois, United States; died: 4-Charles Frank Stephens; born: 9 October 1919, Herington, Dickinson, Kansas, United States; died: 28 April 2005, Kansas City, Wyandotte, Kansas, United States 4-Mildred L. Stephens; born: 1922, Kansas, United States; died: 2-Ada L. Kirkpatrick; born: 13 January 1855; died: 3 February 1936, Platte City, Platte, Missouri, United States +Robert Lane Kirkpatrick; born: 18 October 1852, Platte, Missouri, United States; marr: 28 May 1877, Platte, Missouri, United States; died: 27 September 1922, Platte City, Platte, Missouri, United States 3-Clara Kirkpatrick; born: September 1879, Missouri, United States 3-Mida Kirkpatrick; born: 15 June 1881, Missouri, United States; died: 8 February 1937, Weston, Platte, Missouri, United States +Boyd H Brownell; born: 5 April 1877, Michigan, United States; marr: 18 December 1901, Weston, Platte, Missouri, United States; died: 13 January 1959, Weston, Platte, Missouri, United States 4-Robert Brownell; born: 1904, Weston, Platte, Missouri, United States; died: 2 March 1963, Leavenworth, Leavenworth, Kansas, United States 4-Olin Brownell; born: 12 September 1906, Weston, Platte, Missouri, United States; died: 13 February 1987 3-Ettie Kirkpatrick; born: 17 December 1883, Missouri, United States; died: 13 April 1962, San Diego, San Diego, California, United States +Robert L. Price; marr: 3-Hattie Kirkpatrick; born: 8 August 1887, Weston, Platte, Missouri, United States; died: 14 March 1941, Weston, Platte, Missouri, United States +Albert Hudson Beck; born: 23 February 1879, Weston, Platte, Missouri, United States; marr: 12 September 1907, Platte City, Platte, Missouri, United States; died: 20 April 1953, Weston, Platte, Missouri, United States 4-Ada Beck; born: 30 July 1908; died: 26 November 2000 4-Albert Nola Beck; born: 2 April 1912; died: 26 April 1986, Weston, Platte, Missouri, United States 4-Arthur C Beck; born: 12 June 1914, Missouri, United States; died: 22 February 1983, Leavenworth, Leavenworth, Kansas, United States 4-Henrietta Beck; born: 23 September 1916, Weston, Platte, Missouri, United States; died: 6 March	
3	

13 January 2025	Descendant List of Mahala P. Bland
1939, St. Joseph, Buchanan, Missouri, United States 3-Wallace Kirkpatrick; born: 10 June 1889, Weston, Platte, Missouri, United States; died: 3 March 1964, Platte City, Platte, Missouri, United States +Alice Tweedy Truitt; born: 1892; marr: 26 July 1954, Jackson, Missouri, United States; died: 1962 +Alta Davis; born: October 1892, Morrill, Brown, Kansas, United States; died: 27 August 1962, Kansas City, Platte, Missouri, United States 4-Aline Chlora Kirkpatrick; born: 17 October 1911; died: 1 June 1979, Weston, Platte, Missouri, United States 4-Donald James Kirkpatrick; born: 7 February 1917, Morrill, Brown, Kansas, United States; died: 7 February 1993 4-Charles L. Kirkpatrick; born: 2 August 1921, Missouri, United States; died: 27 June 2000, Loveland, Larimer, Colorado, United States 4-Helen Kirkpatrick; born: about 1927, Kansas, United States 2-Luella Kirkpatrick; born: 3 March 1855; died: 29 November 1927 +William Manley; born: 25 November 1850, Missouri, United States; marr: 27 August 1873, Platte, Missouri, United States; died: 19 April 1935 3-Martha Manley; born: about 1874, Missouri, United States; died: about 15 May 1967, Rushville, Buchanan, Missouri, United States +Milton Carmichael 3-Rose Lee Manley; born: 6 September 1878, Winston, Daviess, Missouri, United States; died: 23 April 1964, St. Joseph, Buchanan, Missouri, United States +George B Cook; born: 1874, Platte, Missouri, United States; marr: 10 July 1906, Platte City, Platte, Missouri, United States; died: August 1950, Missouri, United States 4-Esther Louella Cook; born: 23 May 1907, St. Joseph, Buchanan, Missouri, United States; died: 6 January 1974, Rushville, Buchanan, Missouri, United States 4-Hamilton Cook; born: 8 October 1909, Texas, United States; died: 28 December 1976, Rushville, Buchanan, Missouri, United States 4-Milton B Cook 3-James Galen Manley; born: 2 October 1882, Platte, Missouri, United States; died: 11 December 1968, Weston, Platte, Missouri, United States +Georgia Lee Turpin; born: 16 February 1890, Missouri, United States; died: 15 October 1969, Weston, Platte, Missouri, United States 4-Earl William Manley; born: 16 July 1921, Weston, Platte, Missouri, United States; died: 18 July 1997, Weston, Platte, Missouri, United States 4-Maurice Alfred Manley; born: 25 August 1923, Weston, Platte, Missouri, United States; died: 23 August 1995, Leavenworth, Kansas, United States 4-Mattie May Manley; born: 19 September 1926, Missouri, United States; died: 6 May 2012, Platte City, Platte, Missouri, United States 4-Donald Manley; born: 13 November 1928, Weston, Platte, Missouri, United States; died: 28 June 2019 3-Minnie Manley; born: October 1886, Missouri, United States +Charles Smith Bland; born: 16 February 1890, Weston, Platte, Missouri, United States; died: 25 May 1954, Portland, Multnomah, Oregon, United States 4-Maurice Martin Bland; born: 1 January 1911, Weston, Platte, Missouri, United States; died: 16 September 1964 4-Betty Lee Bland; born: 26 August 1920, Missouri, United States; died: 18 November 1998 2-Margaret "Minnie" Elizabeth Kirkpatrick; born: 27 March 1860, Platte, Missouri, United States; died: 17 May 1935, Buchanan, Missouri, United States	
4	

Descendant List of Mahala P. Bland

13 January 2025

+Joseph M. Anderson; born: 11 January 1856, Plattsburg, Clinton, Missouri, United States; marr: 16 March 1881, Platte, Missouri, United States; died: 17 November 1932, Rushville, Buchanan, Missouri, United States
 3-Emmet Anderson; born: 6 November 1883, Missouri, United States; died: 30 July 1947, Rushville, Buchanan, Missouri, United States
 +Edith Fidler; born: 15 December 1884, Rushville, Buchanan, Missouri, United States; marr: 19 February 1913, St. Joseph, Buchanan, Missouri, United States; died: 19 July 1963, Kansas City, Jackson, Missouri, United States
 3-Elmer Martin Anderson; born: 13 February 1887, Missouri, United States; died: 23 November 1944, St. Joseph, Buchanan, Missouri, United States
 +Cora Emely Williams; born: 7 July 1886, Parkville, Platte, Missouri, United States; marr: 1 May 1910, Parkville, Platte, Missouri, United States; died: 16 December 1944, St. Joseph, Buchanan, Missouri, United States
 4-Darlene A. Anderson; born: 25 July 1922, Rushville, Buchanan, Missouri, United States; died: 12 July 2012
 2-Dee Wilton Kirkpatrick; born: 20 May 1865, Missouri, United States; died: 4 March 1932, Nodaway, Andrew, Missouri, United States
 +Ella Amanda Fulton; born: 25 December 1865, Weston, Platte, Missouri, United States; marr: 21 October 1886, Platte City, Platte, Missouri, United States; died: 7 March 1969, St. Joseph, Buchanan, Missouri, United States
 3-Mae Kirkpatrick; born: 11 September 1887, Missouri, United States; died: 10 June 1986, St. Joseph, Buchanan, Missouri, United States
 +Edward Turner; born: 1888; marr: 13 September 1908, St. Joseph, Buchanan, Missouri, United States; died: 1945
 4-Thelma M. Turner; born: about 1911, Missouri
 4-Carl Edward Turner; born: 9 May 1913, St. Joseph, Buchanan, Missouri, United States; died: 7 January 1997
 3-Mamie Dorothy Kirkpatrick; born: 17 March 1889, Weston, Platte, Missouri, United States; died: 22 March 1966, Topeka, Shawnee, Kansas, United States
 +Kline Clark; born: 12 August 1873, Savannah, Andrew County, Missouri, United States of America; died: 10 July 1944, Laclede, Missouri, United States
 +Robert A Wright; born: 3 July 1883, Easton, Buchanan, Missouri, United States; marr: 14 January 1906, Bolckow, Andrew, Missouri, United States; died: November 1961, Jensen Beach, Martin, Florida, USA
 4-Norman Clayton Wright; born: 26 September 1916, Savannah, Andrew County, Missouri, United States of America; died: 14 December 2002, Topeka, Shawnee, Kansas, United States
 3-Noah Clayton Kirkpatrick; born: 1 January 1891, Platte, Missouri, United States; died: 18 May 1972, Eugene, Lane, Oregon, United States
 +Opal Glen Frame; born: 13 February 1894, Kentland, Newton, Indiana, United States; marr: ; died: 20 January 1974, Eugene, Lane, Oregon, United States
 4-Dorothy Beatrice Kirkpatrick; born: 26 February 1917, Saint Joseph, Buchanan, Missouri, United States; died: 8 November 2008, Bellingham, Whatcom, Washington, United States

WW2 Newspaper Accounts

By Marcia Crawford Philbrick

January 28, 2025

[Nemaha County, World War II, WWII](https://heartlandgenealogy.org/2025/01/28/ww2-newspaper-accounts/)

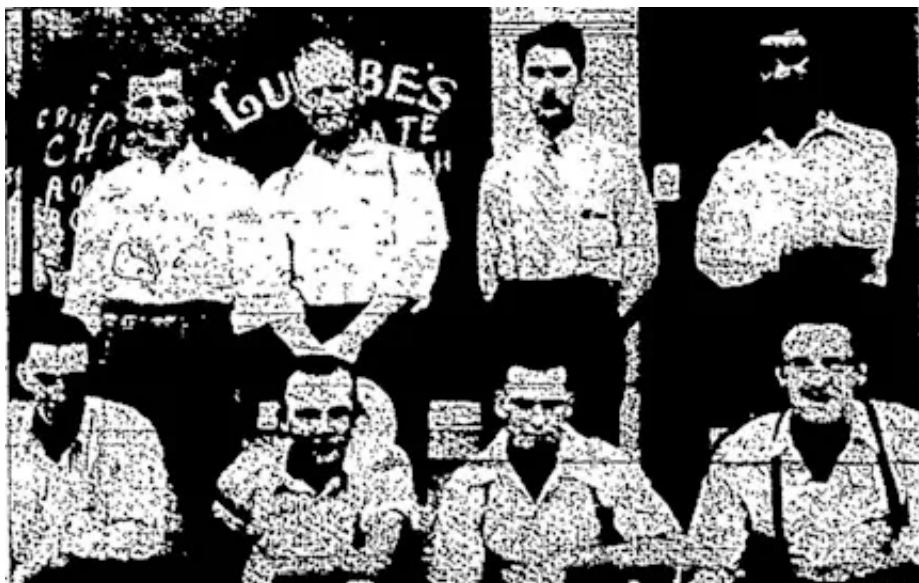
<https://heartlandgenealogy.org/2025/01/28/ww2-newspaper-accounts/>



Have you used newspaper accounts to piece together someone's military service? The Nemaha County, Kansas, newspapers are a treasure trove of information, providing valuable insights into the lives and service of those who served in the military during World War II.

Today's clipping comes from the July 21, 1941 issue of the [Courier Tribune](https://heartlandgenealogy.org/2025/01/28/ww2-newspaper-accounts/).

Seven Accepted; New Call Aug. 2



This photo shows eight young men who left Nemaha County last Wednesday for military service. They are, top row, left to right: Wilfred Kramer, Henry Holthaus, William Stanton, and Albert Boeckman. Lower row: Raphael Dalsing, Lester Noble, Joseph Barrett, and Joseph Hunninghake. All were accepted for induction at Ft. Leavenworth except Noble.

The county has a call for four more men to be sent August 2 as replacements for the July call, which was originally for 12 men.

Three men were over 28 and "there was not time," after men that age were deferred, to call for more. A fourth man was Kenneth Gernand, formerly of Goff, recently of Washington, D.C., whom it has been officially learned joined the marines instead of waiting for army service. Next five men up, from whom the call for four likely will be filled, are Wilbur Moore, Goff, now in Wisconsin; Lawrence Sigmund, Wetmore, volunteering ahead of his number; Kenneth Joseph Dick, of Baileyville; Leander Feldkamp, Vermillion; and John H. Kreutzman, Baileyville.

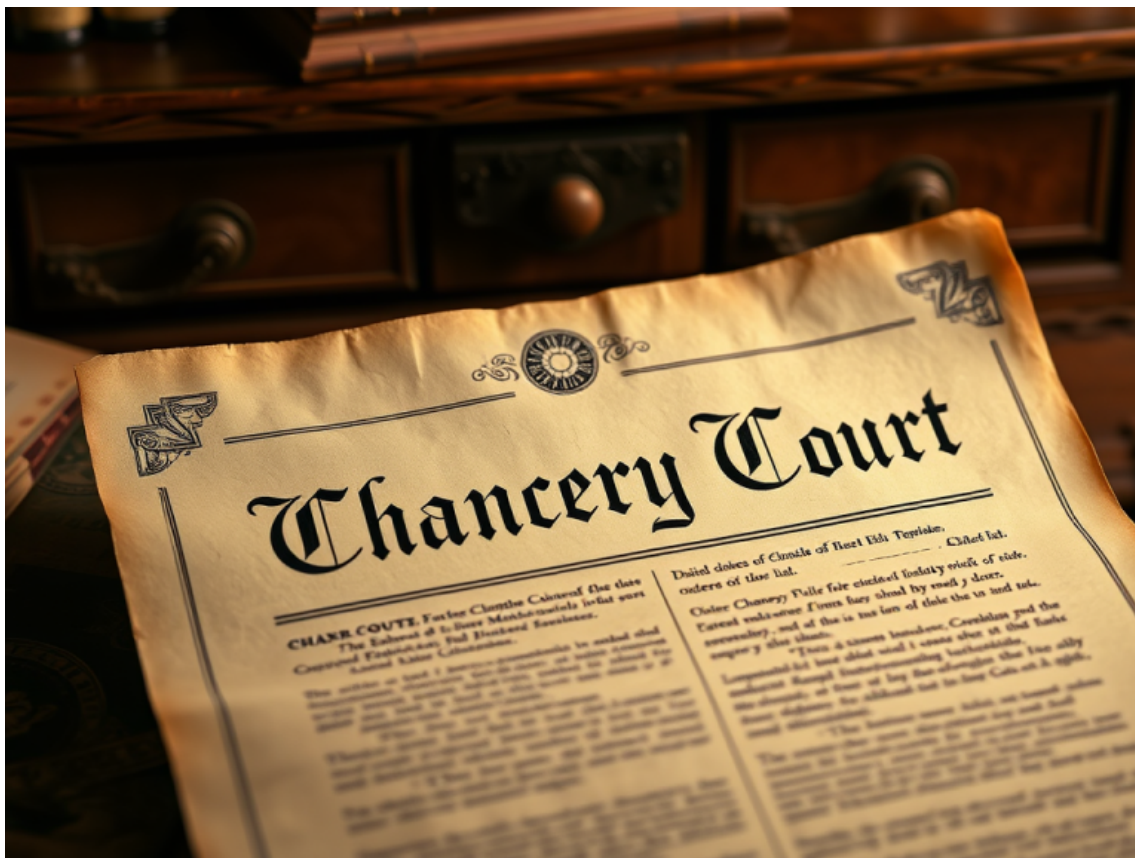
Chancery Court Record

By Marcia Crawford Philbrick

January 29, 2025

[Bland, Burke, Tennessee](#)

<https://heartlandgenealogy.org/2025/01/29/chancery-court-record/>



Discovering Chancery Court Records with FamilySearch Experimental Labs

While recently researching Alfred Kirkpatrick, husband of Mahala Bland, I stumbled upon a remarkable record: a Chancery Court document from Jackson County, Tennessee. This find, made possible through [FamilySearch's Experimental Labs](#), provides invaluable insights into my Bland and Burke family lines.

This [Chancery Court record](#) involved my ancestor Henry F. Burke and his wife, Elizabeth Bland. Here's what I learned from this incredible discovery:

- It confirms the marriage between [Henry Burke](#) and [Elizabeth Bland](#).
- It sheds light on the death of Sally Bland.
- It supports [Mahala Bland](#) and [Matthew Martin Bland](#) as children of Sally Bland.
- It identifies an additional child, Mary Bland, who married William Maynard.
- It excludes Colin Bland and William Phelp Bland as children of Sally Bland.
- It suggests Eli Bland, presumed husband of Sally Bland, was already deceased.

This document challenges my previous understanding of Eli and Sally Bland's family structure. Armed with this new information, I'll need to reevaluate and reorganize their family tree.

Without FamilySearch's Experimental Labs, I doubt I would have uncovered this vital record. If you haven't explored the Labs yet, I highly recommend it—there's no telling what treasures might await in your own research!

"Jackson, Tennessee, United States records," images, FamilySearch
 (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3QSQ7-L9P3-N9H6-P?view=fullText> : Jan 15, 2025), image
 1246 of 1544; .

Film Number/Image Group Number: 007643260

Summarization:

In a legal proceeding before Chancellor Bromfield L. Ridley in 1840, Samuel C. Stone and Leroy B. Settle accuse Henry F. Burke of being indebted to them through multiple notes totaling various amounts, with several credits applied. The estate of Sally Bland, who passed away intestate in Jackson County, includes her children: Elizabeth (married to Henry F. Burke), Mary (married to William D. Maynard), Mahala (married to Alfred Kirkpatrick), and Matthew M. Bland. After settling her debts, a surplus is expected to be distributed to Henry F. Burke and his wife, Elizabeth.

Dates

July 19, 1836

January 1, 1837

Names and Relationships

Samuel C. Stone [orator]

Leroy B. Settle [orator]

Henry F. Burke [debtor, married to Elizabeth Burke]

Elizabeth Burke [heir, daughter of Sally Bland]

Sally Bland [deceased, mother of Elizabeth, Mary, Mahala, and Matthew M. Bland]

To the Hon Bromfield L. Ridley Chancellor of the fourth Chancery
 District of the State of Tennessee setting at Gainesboro
 Your orators Samuel C Stone a citizen of the County of Jackson and State
 of Tennessee and Leroy B. Settle of the County of Wilson and State aforesaid , beg leave to show
 to your Honor that a certain Henry F. Burke is justly indebted to them by five several
 writings obligatory executed by said Henry F. Burke to them under the name and
 style and firm of Sam C. Stone & co. for the sums following , to wit : One note for
 \$ 100 due 19th July 1836 with a credit endorsed thereon of a cash note on Zacharia
 Carter for \$ 100 . due 1st June 1839 – One other note for \$ 71.56 dated 1January 1836 due on
 day after date but not to bear interest until 1st January 1837 , on which are endorsed
 the following credits October 10. 1837 . \$ 26.65 . January 1. 1838 \$ 9 . One other note for
 \$ 75.55 dated 1 January 1839 with a credit endorsed \$65 in cash notes due 1 January
 1839 – One other note for \$ 22.54 dated 1 January 1838 due one day after date and one
 other note for \$ 38.14 dated January 1st 1837 due 12 months after date all of which
 several notes for said several sums are unpaid and now due your orators from
 said Henry F. Burke except what is credited on the same as before stated which
 said several notes with the credits thereon endorsed are here exhibited marked 12
 3.4 and 5 and made a part of this Bill . Said Henry F Burke is not an inhabit
 ant of this State , and your orators know of no property or effects of his in this
 State except as herein after stated nor do they believe that he has any other amt of
 which your orators can make their debts aforesaid
 your orator state that sometime in _ one Sally Bland departed this life
 in said County of Jackson in testate leaving the following children her heirs and
 distributors – to – wit : – Elizabeth who had intermarried with said Henry J Burke
 Mary who had intermarried with William D. Maynard Mahala who had in
 termarried with Alfred Kirkpatrick & Matthew M. Bland. That said Sally Bland
 at her death was the owner of three or four negroes as your orators are infor
 med upwards of three hundred dollars in cash and debts due her and other
 property – — That at September term 1840 of the County Court of said
 County of Jackson said Matthew M. Bland was appointed Administrator
 of all and singular the goods & chattels , rights & credits which were of said Sally
 Bland deceased – and entered upon the duties of his Administratorship
 your orators state that the estate of said Sally Bland is but little in debt

and after the payment of her just debts , there will be a considerable surplus in the hands of said administrator to be distributed to said Henry F. Burke & his wife Elizabeth . Your orator state that said Henry F. Burke is married to said Elizabeth and as the husband of her is joint distributed

IMAGE 1274 of 1544

with said distributors of said Sally Bland the premises considered your orators pray that said Henry F. Burke & his wife Elizabeth of the State of Missouri and said Matthew M. Bland of said County of Jackson be made defendants to this Bill that they true full and perfect answers make to the same , that copy & process issue & c — and that the distributive share or portion of said estate that belongs to said Henry F. & his wife Elizabeth , or so much thereof as will be sufficient to pay the debts due from said Henry F to your orators be attached in the hands of said Matthew M. Bland as administrator as aforesaid and that an attachment issue & c. that an account be taken & c. and upon final hearing that said Matthew M. Bland be decreed to pay over to your orators so much of the distributive share of said Henry F. & his wife Elizabeth in said Estate as will be sufficient to pay said debts due from said Henry F. to your orators and such other and further relief as your orators case may entitle them to & c. There is now due from said Burke to your orators on said notes principal & interest to this time \$ 150 . or \$ 160

Quarles Solicitor
State of Tennessee
Jackson County }

This day before me Thomas D. Capeth a Justice of the Peace for said County personally appeared Sam E. Stone , one of complainants to me known and made oath that statements in the foregoing Bill as made of his own knowledge are true and those made from information of others he believes to be true — and that the defendant Henry F. Burke is indebted as changed in the foregoing Bill and that he is a non resident

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 5 day of November 1840

Thomas D. Cassell JP

Sam E. Stone

Exhibit

\$ 100 Twelve months after date I promise to pay Sam C. Stone & co or order one hundred dollars for value recd of them as witness my hand and seal this 19th day of July 1835

Henry F. Burke P o[seal]

Recd Zachariah Canter 's note due 1st June 1839 on this note \$ 100.00

&71.66 . One day after date I promise to pay Sam C. Stone & co. or order the sum pf seventy one dollars & fifty – six cents for value reced of them as witness my hand and seal this 1st day of January 1836 no interest until 1st Jany . 1837

Henry F. Burke [seal]

Recd after taking up one other on note in price of sorrel Horse Oct. 11th 1837 \$ 26.68

Recd Jany 1st 1838 note on A Hare \$ 9.00

Image 1275 of 1544

3

\$ 73.55

One day after date I promise to pay Sam C. Stone & co. or order the sum of Seventy three dollars & fifty five cents for value recd of them as witness my hand and seal this 1st day of January 1837

Test . Jas W. Settle

Henry F. Burke

Credit by one small negro which we was to sell to the best advantage & we sold

it to Alex Montgomery for \$ 66 in cash notes due on the 1st day of January 1839 . this being for the negro \$ 66.00

4

\$ 22.54 . One day after date I promise to pay Sam E. Stone & Co or order the sum of Twenty two Dollars & fifty four cents for value recd of them as witness my hand s and seal this 1st day of January 1838

Test Joel W. Little .

Henry F. Burke [seal]

5

\$ 38.14 . Twelve months after date I promise to pay Sam C. Stone & co. or order the sum of Thirty eight Dollars & fourteen cents for value recd of them as witness my hand and seal this 1st day of January 1837

Test . Joel W. Little

Henry F Burke [seal]

A true copy of bill & exhibits as filled in my Office

Geo M [McWhistler Clk AMC]

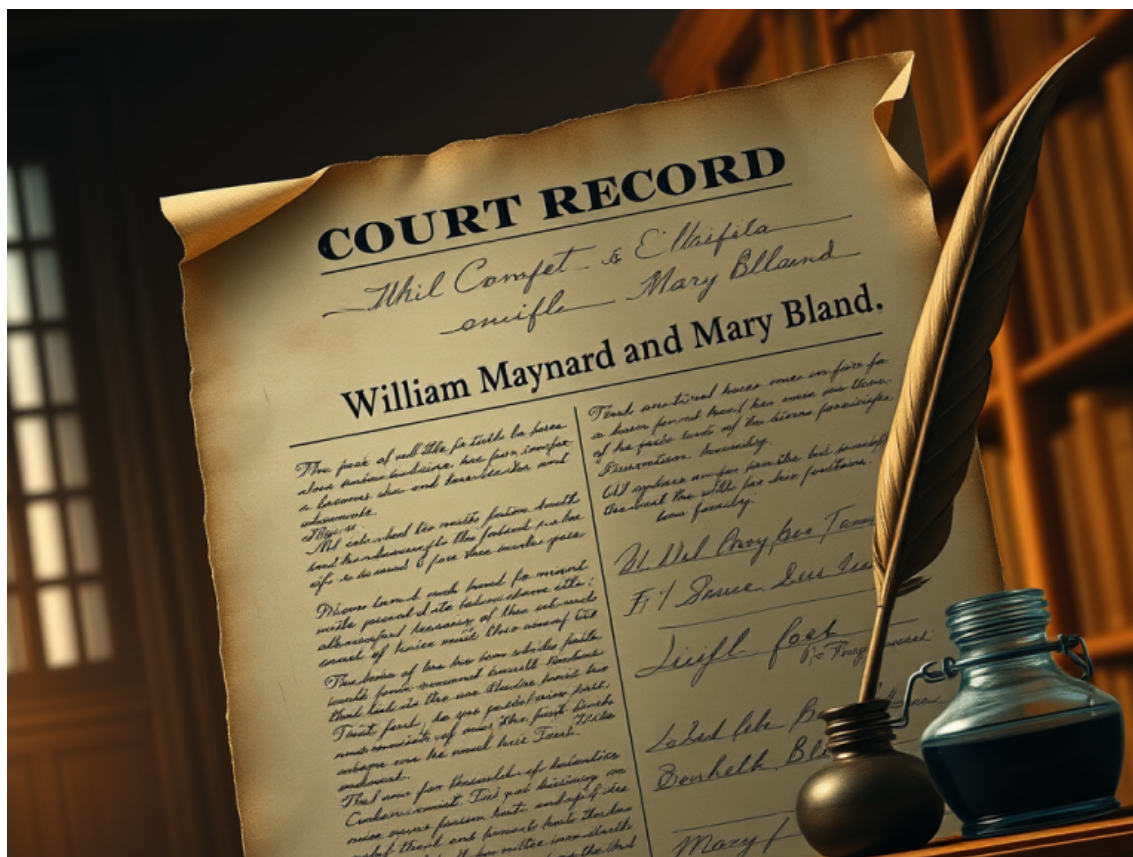
Maynard Family

By Marcia Crawford Philbrick

January 30, 2025

[Bland, Missouri](#)

<https://heartlandgenealogy.org/2025/01/30/maynard-family/>



Uncovering New Connections: The Maynard-Bland Family Discovery

Have you ever found a court record or document that reshaped a family group? Recently, I stumbled upon a Chancery Court record in Jackson County, Tennessee, that transformed my understanding of the Eli Bland family.

This record added Mary Bland and her husband, William Maynard, to Eli Bland's family tree. Not only did this discovery expand my own research, but it also led to updates on the FamilySearch tree. When I couldn't find a family listed for Mary Bland and William Maynard, I added them, linking them to the Bland lineage.

Further investigation suggests that William Maynard could be Dr. William Bland [\[KZGW-QYY\]](#). Intrigued, I began searching for records that tied William Maynard to a wife named Mary. Given that several of Mary's siblings had migrated from Tennessee to Platte County, Missouri, I focused my search there.

In Platte County, I uncovered two deeds where William Maynard sold land to Matthew Bland and Alfred Kirkpatrick. Both deeds were signed by Mary Maynard, strongly suggesting she was Mary Bland. This connection makes sense, as Matthew Bland and Alfred Kirkpatrick would have been William Maynard's brothers-in-law.

The search for more records about Mary and William Maynard continues, but this discovery highlights how court documents can unlock new family connections and expand our understanding of ancestral relationships. Have you experienced a similar breakthrough in your research?

Platte County Missouri

Deeds 1844-1846

image 230 of 663

"Platte, Missouri, United States records," images, FamilySearch
 (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSL2-3T95?view=fullText> : Jan 15, 2025), image 230 of 663; .

Film Number/Image Group Number: 008197430

Deed records v. C-D 1844-1847

Volume C 1844-1846

page 387

This Indenture made and entered into the 24th day of September A.D. Eighteen hundred and forty five by and between William D. Maynard and Mary Maynard his wife of the County of Platte and State of Missouri of the first part and Matthew M. Bland of the second part Witnesseth That the said party of the first part for and in consideration of the sum of Ten dollars to them in hand paid by the said party of the second part the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged have bargained sold and conveyed and by these presents do bargain Sell and convey and confirm unto the to party of the second part his heirs and assigns forever , all that certain tract piece or parcel of land lying and being situate in the County of Platte and State of Missouri to wit Commoning at the South East corner the North West quarter of Section No thirty four (34) Township fifty four (54) of Range 36 Thirty Six and running North on said quarter Section line two and one half rods thence West six Rods Thence South two and one half rods thence West along the South line of said quarter Section six rods to the place of Beginning said piece of land supposed to contain One fourth of an acre more or less . To have and to hold the same with all the right privileges and appurtenances thereunto belonging or in any wise appertaining unto him the said party of the second part his heirs and assigns forever , the said William D. Maynard and Mary Maynard his wife party of the first hereby Covenanting that their heirs Executors or administrators will warrant and forever defend the title to the said premises and any part thereof to him the said party of the second part his heirs and assigns forever , against the lawfull claim or claims of all and every person or persons whatever claim or to claim the same or any part thereof

In Witness Whereof the said William D.

Maynard and Mary Maynard his wife party of the first part have
 hereunto set their hands and seals the day and year first above written .

Wm D Maynard (seal)

Mary M. Maynard (seal)

State of Missouri County of Platte , ss :

Be it remembered that before me the undersigned a

Justice of the Peace in and for Platte County and State aforesaid

Personally Came William D. Maynard , and Mary Maynard his wife

whose names are subscribed to the within and foregoing instrument

of writing as parties thereto and acknowledged that they executed and

delivered the same as their voluntary act and Deed for the uses and

purposes therein mentioned . The said Mary Maynard being by

me [just] made acquainted with the contents of said Deed acknowledged

on an examination apart from her said husband that she executed the same

and relinquished her Dower in the real Estate therein mentioned

freely and without Compulsion or undue influence of her said

husband

Given under my

image 231 of 663
page 388

my hand this 30th day of September 1845
Geo T Hulse Justice of the Peace
Filed for Record October 16th 1845

Platte County Missouri
Deeds 1844-1846

image 238 of 663

"Platte, Missouri, United States records," images, FamilySearch
(<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSL2-3T95?view=fullText> : Jan 15, 2025), image 230 of 663; .

Film Number/Image Group Number: 008197430
Deed records v. C-D 1844-1847

Volume C 1844-1846

page 403

This Indenture witnesseth that William D Maynard and Mary M.
his wife of the County of Platte and State of of Missouri for and in Consideration
of the Sum of One Hundred Dollars to them in hand paid by Alfred
Kirkpatrick of said County and State aforesaid the receipt where of
is hereby acknowledged have given granted bargained and sold aliened
Conveyed and confirmed and by these presents do give grant bargain and
Sell alien Convey and Confirm unto the said Alfred Kirkpatrick
his heirs and assigns forever a certain piece or tract of land lying and
being in County and State aforesaid and being the North East quarter
of the North West quarter of Section Thirty four 34 Township fifty four
54 and Range thirty six in the Plattesburgh land District [the form]
Containing forty acres of land be the same more or Les To have and
To hold the said granted premice with all the appurtenances
and privileges to the same belonging or in anywise appertaining to the
aid Alfred Kirkpatrick his heirs and assigns to their own
proper use benefit and behoof forever as a good indefeasible
Estate in fee Simple and the said William D Maynard and
Mary M his wife for themselves their heirs Executors and Administrators
Covenant with the said Alfred Kirkpatrick , his heirs and assigns that
until the signing sealing and delivery of these presents , they were law
fully siezed in fee of the above granted premises and appurtenances
that the have just right full power and lawful authority to sell
and convey the same in manner aforesaid that the premises are
free from all incumberances whatever , and that they will do warrant
and forever defend the same to the said Alfred Kirkpatrick
his heirs and assigns forever against the lawful claim of all persons
whomever . In testimony whereof they have hereunto set their hands
and seals this 19th day of April A. D. One thousand eight hundred
and forty five
Wm D. Maynard (seal)
Mary M. Maynard (seal)
Signed Sealed and delivered }
in presence of

Be it remembered that on this 19th day of April A. D. 1845
before me William Turner a Justice of the peace for Marshall
Township in Platte County Missouri Personally appeared William
D Maynard , and Mary M his wife who are personally Known to me
to be the persons whose names are subscribed to the foregoing and
within Deed as having executed and severally acknowledged the same
to be their act and Deed for the purposes therein contained , she the
said Mary D. Maynard being by me first made acquainted with
the contents of the within instrument of writing , and examined
separate and apart from her husband , whether she had executed the
said instrument freely willingly and without control of her Husband

page 404 (image 239)

Husband she the said Mary M acknowledged and declared she executed
the same relinquishing her dower right in the said lands and tene
ments freely willingly and without control or under influence of
said husband
William Turner J P
Filed for Record Oct . 21st 1845

By Marcia Crawford Philbrick
January 31, 2025

<https://heartlandgenealogy.org/2025/01/31/preserving-family-history/>



Did you see **Linda Stufflebean's** post, [Preserving My Family Tree](#), on her blog [Empty Branches on the Family Tree](#)? In it, she not only shares her efforts to safeguard her genealogy research but also challenges readers to reflect on how they are preserving their own work.

Over the years, I've used a variety of platforms and methods to share my research, including:

- **Ancestry – [Heartland Genealogy](#) Public Tree**
 - Updated via **TreeShare** from RootsMagic
 - Connected to **four DNA tests** for additional research insights
- **[FamilySearch](#) Tree**
 - **GEDCOM** uploaded in 2017

- Contributed over **2,500 family photos and documents** (Memories)
 - Added **3,000+ sources** to support accurate records
- **MyHeritage**
 - Created [Heartland Genealogy Tree](#) from a GEDCOM file
 - Connected to **DNA results** for expanded matching
- [Geneanet](#)
 - Uploaded a **GEDCOM file** in 2024
- [WikiTree](#)
 - Built profiles for **ancestors through my 2nd great-grandparents**, with some lines extending further

Published & Printed Works

- **Genealogy Books (1993)**
 - Generated using **The Master Genealogist**
 - Distributed to **genealogy libraries and historical societies** (See [WorldCat for listings](#) and availability)
- **Family Books**
 - Compiled and shared with **siblings, nieces, and nephews**

Ongoing Research & Blog Contributions

Finally, I use this **blog** to:

- Share my **current research findings**
- Highlight **documents** from my collection
- Publish **various reports** generated from my **RootsMagic files**

Preserving our family history is an ongoing effort, and I'm always exploring new ways to make this information **accessible and meaningful** for my family. How are you ensuring that your genealogy research is preserved for future generations?

WWI War News

By Marcia Crawford Philbrick

February 1, 2025

[Nemaha County, World War I, WWI](https://heartlandgenealogy.org/2025/02/01/wwi-war-news-5/)

<https://heartlandgenealogy.org/2025/02/01/wwi-war-news-5/>



War News Highlights from the 2 August 1917 Courier Democrat

The 2 August 1917 issue of the *Courier Democrat* highlights the experiences of local soldiers during World War I. Paul Allen writes from Camp Custer in Michigan, sharing his initial impressions of the camp and adjusting to military life. Meanwhile, another letter from Fred, stationed in Hawaii, details his daily activities, celebrations, and camaraderie with fellow soldiers. These personal accounts offer a glimpse into the lives of young men serving their country far from home.

PAUL ALLEN WRITES FROM NEW QUARTERS

Medical Department, Camp Custer, Battle Creek, Michigan, July 28th, 1917.

Dear Folks: I haven't much time before dark. Yesterday P. M. we were called up (13 of us) and told we were to be sent here. I begged on my prayer bones to stay; but nothing doing, so I wired you.

We started to Chicago on the North Western at 10:45 P. M. and left Chicago on the Michigan Central at 1:00 A. M., arriving at Battle Creek at 7:10 A. M., then took the car out here about three miles.

It is just a new camp—going up. I do not know yet what we will be set doing as we are the only medical men here.

We are fed in a public mess hall where the carpenters and teamsters eat. We get fine grub. We are sleeping in one of the half-finished buildings. This is an awful change—no bath tubs, lights, wash bowls or any of this yet, but soon, I guess.

Gee! It's a lot hotter here than in Ft. Sheridan and dusty. Don't let this stop you folks from coming as Battle Creek is only 165 miles from Chicago, but wait till I get settled a little first.

Isn't it a shame I had to leave Ft. Sheridan? I never did feel so bad; but I am in the army now and must do as I am told.

We are 121 miles from Detroit.

Well, I must close now. Will write again soon.
With love to all. —Paul J. Allen.

According to statements made by government officials, Battle Creek's military cantonment, aside from housing nine regiments of infantry, will have samples of almost every branch of the army service. There will be one regiment of cavalry, three of artillery, one of engineers and one of telegraph battalion signal corps and one aero squadron. It is expected that about 40,000 men will be stationed at Camp Custer.

SOLDIER BOYS FLUSH SPLIT WITH EACH OTHER.

Sixth Company, Fort Kamehameha, Hawaiian Territory, July 8, 1917.

Dear Sis: I received about three letters from you, one from mother, Albert and Urban and believe me I'm glad to get all of them. Also got a bunch of other letters which you, I think, are responsible for. Now am I correct? Well I sure enjoyed them I can assure you and today is the day. Just think almost a regular man.

I got the box you sent, too, and everything was O.K., especially the cake. Gee! it was great. Ruck, Nash and I have been celebrating today by eating it and taking pictures. They said to tell you it was great and the candy likewise. So that makes it unanimous. Uncle Sam gave me a present too. Got our gun, bayonet and belts today, Sunday. That goes to show how busy they are when they do that on Sunday. We will start to drill again tomorrow with rifles and also on the Battery. Am getting to like it better every day. All of the old heads and officers are such a fine bunch and will give you anything you want to know except when we go to France and when the war will be over.

Spent July 4th in Honolulu. They had some speaking at a park there and a parade. Some old stuff. Also went out to Waikiki. Things are pretty nice out there. Didn't go swimming nor did I see anything to fall in love with. We get paid tomorrow. Sure am glad of it. Boys at Ruger got paid July 3rd so that is when we got to Honolulu.

What one of the Seneca bunch has for the rest of us we can always figure on drawing on. Got the draft Dad sent all O.K. and just in time too as Nash was broke and Ruck was down to 85 cents so when that come we all had money again. Say, tell the boys to hop to my clothes if they want them. Tell them to set their own price as I won't be back soon enough to wear any of them. If the war was over today, which isn't likely, I wouldn't get home from four to six months.

Well, I will close and go see the boys. We go to the show together about every other night. Yes, we have a good picture show. Lots of love, Fred.

Saturday Night Genealogy Fun

By Marcia Crawford Philbrick
February 2, 2025

[Foster, SaturdayNightGenealogyFun](#)

<https://heartlandgenealogy.org/2025/02/02/saturday-night-genealogy-fun-142/>

It's Time for More ...



Saturday Night Genealogy Fun!

Calling all [Genea-Musings](#) Fans:

It's Saturday Night again –

Time for some more Genealogy Fun!!

Come on, everybody, join in and accept the mission and execute it with precision.

- 1) We all find “fun” or “different” information about ourselves, our relatives and ancestors in our genealogy and family history pursuits. What are five “fun” or “different” facts in your life or your ancestors lives?
- 2) Tell us about your five fun or different facts in a comment on this post, or in a Facebook post. Please leave a link on this post if you write your own post.

[Thank you to Jacquie Schattner for suggesting this topic last year.]

Five Unique Facts from My Family History

When it comes to family history, “fun” can be subjective, so I’m focusing on unique or unusual facts from my genealogy

research.

Fact One: Two Ancestors Survived Andersonville Prison

Two of my great-great-grandfathers, Washington Marion Crawford and Richmond Fisk Hammond, were prisoners of war at the infamous Andersonville Prison during the Civil War.

- **Washington Marion Crawford** lived in Warren County, Indiana, and served in Company H of the 2nd New York Cavalry Volunteers. He was captured at Liberty Mills in September 1863 and initially imprisoned at Belle Isle before being transferred to Andersonville in March 1864. He remained there until his release in November 1864.
- **Richmond Fisk Hammond** of Knox County, Illinois, was serving in Company D of the 14th Illinois Cavalry when he was captured near Atlanta in August 1864 and sent to Andersonville.

Both men survived the ordeal, returned to their home counties, and eventually moved to Dodge City, Kansas. Their children, **Judson Crawford** and **Josie Hammond**, later married—making them my great-grandparents.

Fact Two: A Man of Many Trades

My great-grandfather **James Currey** was a jack-of-all-trades. My grandmother, Winnie Currey Crawford, often referred to him as a carpenter, and a 1907 directory confirms that profession. However, over the years, various records list him as a **farmer, magnetic healer, teamster, baker, and section hand**—quite a diverse career path!

Fact Three: A Divorce with Drama

My great-great-grandmother **Sarah Jane Thompson Briles** went through a dramatic divorce in 1898. She married my 2nd great-grandfather **Noah Briles** in 1866, but after his death in 1879, she later remarried **J.D. Davis** in 1888.

Unfortunately, the marriage didn't last, and in 1898, Davis filed for divorce, accusing Sarah of:

- **Neglecting her household duties**
- **Failing to prepare meals**
- **Being cross and abusive toward his children from a previous marriage**

Davis even claimed that she **drove his children away from their home**. Given the social stigma of divorce at the time, this must have been quite a scandal!

Fact Four: Four Generations of Hiram M. Currey

The name **Hiram M. Currey** appears across four generations in my family tree:

1. **Hiram M. Currey Sr.** – served as treasurer for the state of Ohio.
2. **Hiram M. Currey Jr.** of Peoria Illinois – A lawyer, with records placing him in Illinois until 1849.
3. **Hiram M. Currey** was born in 1835 in Peoria, Illinois. This Hiram married Angelina Burke in 1856 in Weston, Missouri and died in Leavenworth county in 1901.
4. **Hiram Miles Currey** (born 1866, Leavenworth, Kansas – died 1943, Ford County, Kansas) – My great-grandfather.

This repeated naming pattern is a reminder of how family legacies endure through generations.

Fact Five: Deep Kansas Roots

Kansas is truly at the heart of my family history. Nearly all of my second great-grandparents ended up in Kansas:

- **Washington Marion Crawford** – Settled in Dodge City in 1884.
- **Richmond Fisk Hammond** – Filed for land in Pawnee County in 1885 and lived in Dodge City before moving to California.
- **Hiram M. Currey** – Purchased land in Leavenworth County in 1860.

- **Albert Hutchinson** – Moved to Doniphan County, Kansas, before his death in 1896.
- **Noah Washington Briles** – Settled in Coffey County, Kansas, by 1869.
- **James Marshall Ricketts** – Moved to Woodson County, Kansas, in 1879.
- **George Mentzer** – Arrived in Woodson County, Kansas, by 1871.
- **Thurston Kennedy Wells** – His son was born in Miami County, Kansas, in 1857, and his daughter was born in Woodson County in 1873.

With the exception of **Richmond Fisk Hammond**, all of my second great-grandparents were **buried in Kansas**. No wonder I feel such a strong connection to the state!

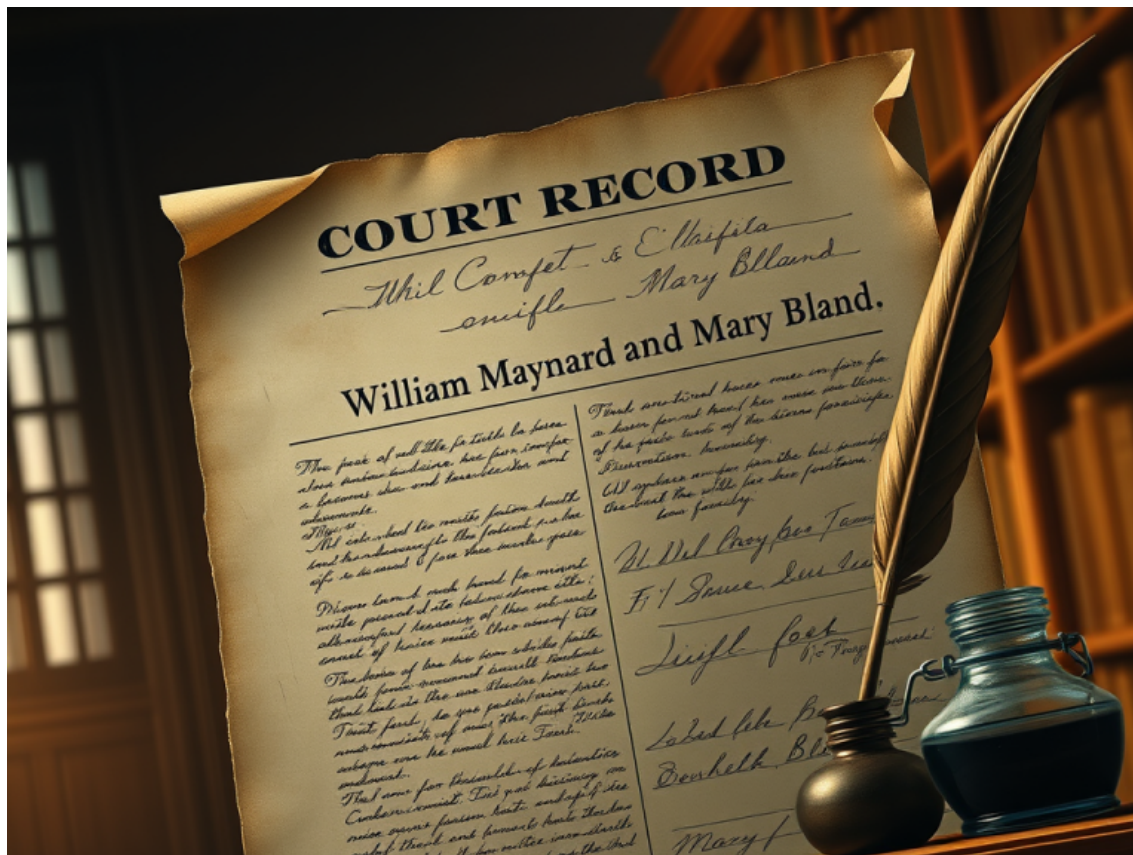
Connecting Family

By Marcia Crawford Philbrick

February 3, 2025

[Bland, Missouri](#)

<https://heartlandgenealogy.org/2025/02/03/connecting-family/>



Adding New Connections to the FamilySearch Tree: The Maynard-Bland Discovery

Do you work in the [FamilySearch](#) tree? Have you ever uncovered a second marriage or family missing from the tree? Recently, I encountered this situation while researching [Mary Bland](#), a child of [Eli Bland](#), and her husband, [William Maynard](#).

The FamilySearch tree did not list Mary as a child of Eli Bland, nor could I find a family for Mary Bland and William Maynard. However, I did locate a William Maynard family in Taney County, Missouri, with a wife named [Ruth Howell](#).

Census records from 1850 for this William Maynard included two potential children, Susan and Martin Maynard. A court record from Platte County, Missouri, revealed a key connection: Susan and Martin Maynard were identified as heirs of Eli Bland, with Elizabeth Burke acting as their curator. This strongly suggests that their mother, Mary Bland Maynard, had passed away.

Using this information, I added William Maynard as Mary Bland's husband and Susan and Martin as their children in the FamilySearch tree.

This discovery highlights how combining census, court, and family records can uncover missing family connections. Have you encountered similar finds in your research?

Platte County Missouri
Bonds 1849-1855

“Platte, Missouri, United States records,” images, FamilySearch
(<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q57-99L9-76D1?view=fullText> : Jan 16, 2025), image 282 of 594; Missouri. County Court (Platte County).

Film Number/Image Group Number: 007631724

image 282 of 594

page 114

Know all men by these presents
that we Elizabeth A Burke as principal
and Marcus Lipscomb as security ac
knowledge ourselves to owe and be indebted
to the State of Missouri with for the use
and benefit of Sarah G Maynard and
Martin T Maynard in the just and
full sum of six hundred dollars for the
payment of which well and truly to be made
we bind ourselves our heirs Ex
ecutors and administrators jointly and
severally firmly by these presents , Sealed
with our seals and dated this 1st day
of March AD 1852 The condition of
the above bond is such , That whereas
Elizabeth Burke has been appointed
[Curat]or of the estate of Sarah G Maynard
and Martin T Maynard heirs at law
of Eli Bland deceased , Now if the
said Elizabeth A Burke shall faith
fully perform the duties of Curator as
aforesaid account for [pay] pay and deliver
all money and property of said estates
and perform all other things touching
said Curatorship required by law or
the order or decree of any Court having
jurisdiction , and make due and pro
per settlements of her accounts as Cura
tor as aforesaid , Then the above bond
to be void otherwise to remain in full
force and effect , Given under our hand ,
and seals this the day and year first
aforesaid

Elizabeth A Burk ©
Marcus Lipscomb ©

WW2 Newspaper Accounts

By Marcia Crawford Philbrick

February 4, 2025

[Nemaha County, World War II, WWII](#)

<https://heartlandgenealogy.org/2025/02/04/ww2-newspaper-accounts-2/>



Have you used newspaper accounts to piece together someone's military service? The Nemaha County, Kansas, newspapers are a treasure trove of information, providing valuable insights into the lives and service of those who served in the military during World War II.

Today's clipping comes from the July 24, 1941 issue of the [Courier Tribune](#).

U.S. Service News

Leave August First

Wilbur Moore, in Wisconsin; Leander Feldkamp of Vermillion, John Kreutzman, Baileyville; and Lawrence Sigmund, Wetmore, made up the August replacement group from Nemaha County. They leave Seneca at 2:30 p.m., August 1, for Ft. Leavenworth.

News from Ft. Leavenworth: Joseph G. Hunninghake of Baileyville and Henry A. Holthaus of Seneca, recent inductees from Nemaha County, have been sent to an engineering replacement center at Ft. Belvoir, Virginia.

Thank You Mr. Otter!

By Marcia Crawford Philbrick

February 5, 2025

[RootsMagic10](#)

<https://heartlandgenealogy.org/2025/02/05/thank-you-mr-otter/>



Exceeding Expectations: A RootsMagic Fix Thanks to Mr. Otter

Have you ever received technical help that far exceeded your expectations? That was my experience when I got assistance from Mr. Otter with a RootsMagic issue.

Many genealogists rely on suggested citations from sites like Ancestry, but I prefer to use [Source Templates](#) to create sources and citations. While RootsMagic offers built-in templates, I often customize them by copying and modifying an existing one to better fit my needs.

Over a year ago, I modified my census citation template to include the **image number** and **total number of images**. Following RootsMagic's documentation, I enclosed these fields in **angle brackets (< >)**, which should cause the program to omit them from the footnote if left blank. However, as I worked on **narrative reports**, I noticed that these empty fields were not being skipped. Instead, the field names themselves were appearing in my footnotes.

Source Template

Name of this source type

EE_Census, U.S. Federal (Online images)

Details

Add Field

Edit Field

Delete Field

Field Name	Display Name	Type	ID	Hint	?
[Country]	Country (optional)	Text		Country in which	
[CensusID]	Year and type	Text		e.g. 1880 U.S.	
[Jurisdiction]	Jurisdiction	Place		e.g. Avon Co	
[Schedule]	Schedule	Text		e.g. populat	
[CivilDivision]	Civil Division	Text	X	e.g. Ward 7	
[ED]	Enumeration	Text	X	(1880 or late	
[PageID]	Page ID	Text	X	e.g. p. 123 (p	
[HouseholdID]	Household ID	Text	X	(1850 or late	
[Person]	Person of in	Name	X	name of per	
[ItemType]	Item type	Text		e.g. digital i	
[WebSite]	Website	Text		title of the w	
[URL]	URL	Text		digital locati	
[AccessType]	Access type	Text	X	e.g. access	
[AccessDate]	Access date	Date	X	date you vie	
[CreditLine]	Credit line	Text		source of th	
[FileNumber]	File Number	Text	X	Where Copy X	
[WebAddress]	Web Address	Text	X		
[Image]	Image Num	Text	X	Image Num	
[ImageTotal]	Image Total	Text	X	Total # of im	

Footnote Template

[CensusID], [Jurisdiction]< [Schedule]>< [CivilDivision]>< [ED]>< [PageID]>< [Image [Image]]>< of [ImageTotal]>< [HouseholdID]>, [Person]; <[ItemType:Lower]digital images>, <i>[WebSite]</i> ([URL] : <[AccessType]accessed> [AccessDate]); [CreditLine]>

Short Footnote Template

[CensusID], [Jurisdiction:Abbrev]< [Schedule:Abbrev]>< [CivilDivision:Abbrev]>< [ED]>< [PageID]>, [HouseholdID:Abbrev], [Person].

Bibliography Template

<[Country]. >[Jurisdiction:Reverse], [CensusID]< [Schedule:Lower]>, <[ItemType:Caps]Digital images>, [WebSite], [URL] : [AccessDate:Year].

OK

Cancel

Edit Citation

Master Source - Census-1900 MI Calhoun County Ancestry EE

Master Source text, media, etc

Citation Details

Citation Name

Clarendon, Calhoun County, Michigan; ED48; Page 1; family 1; James Doolittle; viewed online; 27 June 2022; ;

Citation Detail

Civil Division

Clarendon, Calhoun County, Michigan

Enumeration District

ED48

PageID

Page 1

HouseholdID

family 1

Person of interest

James Doolittle

AccessType

viewed online

Access Date

27 June 2022

File Number

Web address

Web Address

Image

ImageTotal

Citation Detail text, media, etc

Research Note

Name: Nancy Doolittle [Nancy P Doolittle] Age: 49 Birth Date: Abt 1831 [09 May 1831] Birthplace: New York Home...

Detail Comment

Detail Ref#

Media

1

Citation WebTags

0

Citation Used

5

Quality

Source

Don't know

Information

Secondary

Evidence

Don't know

Footnote

Footnote: 1900 U.S. Census, Calhoun County Michigan, Clarendon, Calhoun County, Michigan, ED48, Page 1, Image [Image] of [ImageTotal], family 1, James Doolittle; digital images, (viewed online 27 June 2022).

Since I couldn't figure out why this was happening, I resorted to manually looking up census records and entering the

missing image numbers before finalizing my reports.

Then, while researching **Isom Gallimore**, I encountered the same issue while creating citations for **FamilySearch county land records**. Since image numbers are a crucial part of these citations, I modified my FamilySearch template to include them—and once again, the angle brackets failed to function correctly.

The Search for a Solution

Determined to fix the problem, I turned to the **RootsMagic Community Forum** and found a [post](#) describing the same issue.



Angle brackets not recognised

■ RootsMagic ■ question ■ issue



Apr 2024

I am adding a new field to a source template, and have done so before successfully. However suddenly using angle brackets does not work, ie. using <address [address]> displays as such in the footnotes when the address field is empty.

♡ @ ... ↩ Reply

As I read through the responses, I made an important discovery:

- If a **template is modified after a citation has already been created**, the angle brackets will no longer work as expected.

Just as I was starting to think I'd have to redo all my citations manually, I found a game-changing response from **Mr. Otter**—he had developed a script to fix the problem!

Otter



Apr 2024

I have a utility that will fix it for every citation/source.
Look for "ChangeSourceTemplate" near the bottom at:

My Bare-Minimum Site

My Bare-Minimum Site 14

A place to share what I'm working on.

Download the zip and read the readme file.
You can DM me for help.

Running the Script

I downloaded the **ChangeSourceTemplate** script from [Mr. Otter's site](#) and tested it on a **copy** of my RootsMagic database. While the process required careful step-by-step execution, it successfully updated many of my citations based on my **FamilySearch template**.

Now, my next step is to **run the tool on my actual database** for both the FamilySearch and Census templates. Through this process, I also learned an important lesson:

- **Never modify an existing template directly** if I want changes to apply to old citations.
- Instead, I should **make a copy of the template, modify the copy, and then apply the new version to existing citations using the script.**

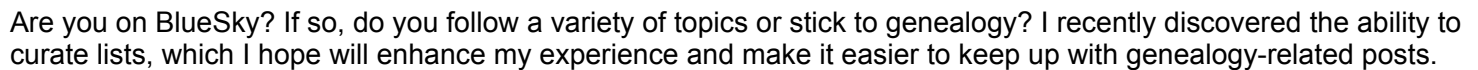
A Huge Thank You!

Thanks to Mr. Otter and the incredible community of developers who create scripts to enhance **RootsMagic**, I was able to resolve this frustrating issue. Their willingness to share solutions and develop tools for the genealogy community is truly invaluable!

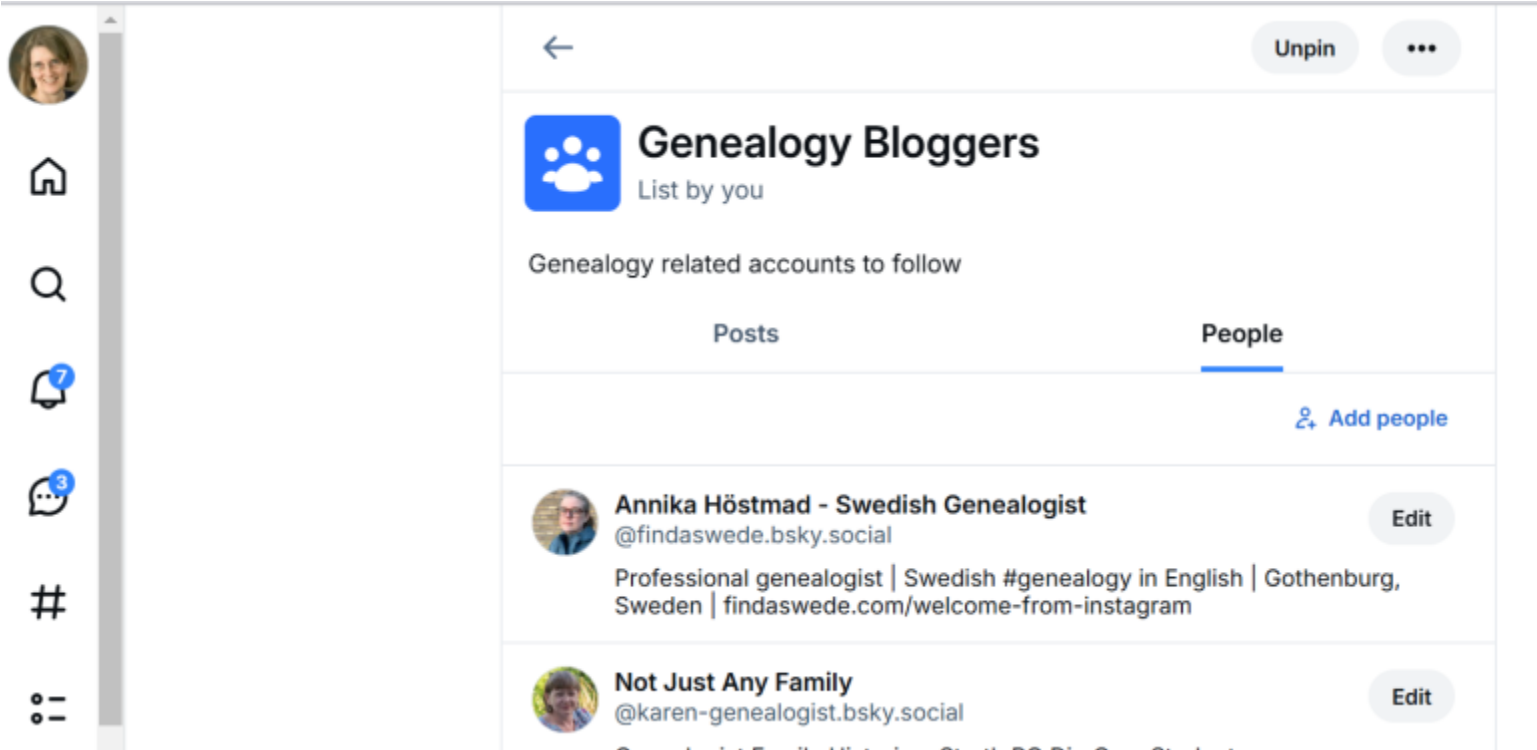
Have you ever had a similar experience where an online forum or community expert saved you from hours of tedious work? I'd love to hear about it!

By Marcia Crawford Philbrick
February 6, 2025

<https://heartlandgenealogy.org/2025/02/06/bluesky-lists/>



At first, I didn't have a list on BlueSky. But I remembered that [Climbing My Family Tree](#) had recently shared a list of genealogy bloggers on the platform. Using that list—along with the article [Creating Themed Lists of Accounts That You Follow on BlueSky](#)—I started building my own. I then searched for terms like *genealogy* and *genealogist* to find and add more relevant accounts.



In the process, I learned something new: BlueSky lists are public! This means that not only can others find my genealogy list, but I can also discover and use lists created by others to refine my own or explore other interests.

Now, with my curated genealogy list, I have a dedicated feed to stay updated on genealogy news and discussions on BlueSky. Have you tried using lists on BlueSky? If so, what topics are you following?

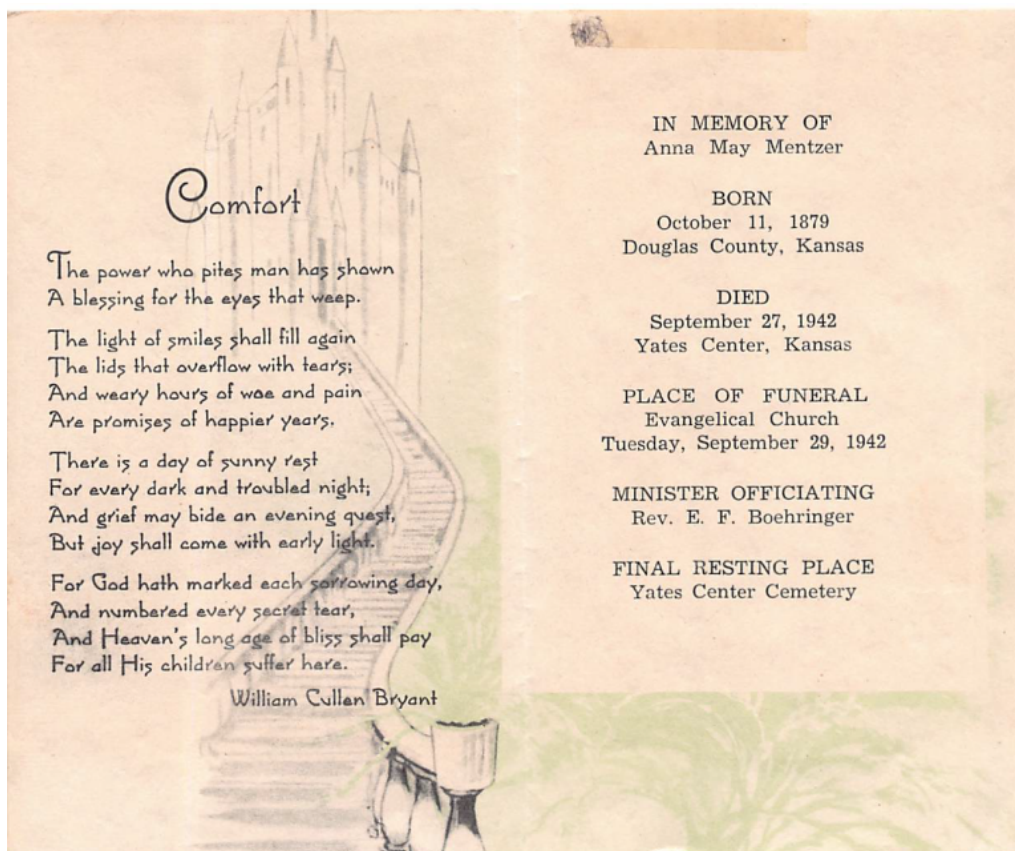
Friday Find

By Marcia Crawford Philbrick

February 7, 2025

[Kansas, Mentzer, Woodson County](https://heartlandgenealogy.org/2025/02/07/friday-find-72/)

<https://heartlandgenealogy.org/2025/02/07/friday-find-72/>



Anna May Schoepflin Mentzer

Do you have prayer cards or funeral programs in your genealogy collection? I'm fortunate that both of my grandmothers preserved many family treasures, including funeral programs.

One such find is the funeral program for my grandmother's aunt, Anna May Mentzer. Born Anna May Schoepflin, she was married to my great grand-uncle, Philip Embry Mentzer. Like most of my Mentzer relatives, they spent their entire lives in Woodson County, Kansas. Along with this funeral program, I also have a photocopy of her obituary from the *Yates Center* newspaper, which provides further details about her life and family.

I'm grateful to my grandmother for preserving this meaningful memento—a tangible link to our family's history.

OBITUARY MRS. PHILIP MENTZER

Annie May Schoepflin, youngest daughter of Martin and Christena Schoepflin, was born October 11, 1879, near Baldwin, Kansas. In her girlhood, she moved with her family to Woodson County, and on October 25, 1905, she was married to Phillip Mentzer of Yates Center.

To this couple were born four children: Howard of Eureka, Loren of Pando, Colo., Ivan of the home, and Edna Grace, who preceded her in death in 1911.

At an early age, she was converted and has always been a faithful church worker. At the time of her death, she was a member of the Turkey Creek Evangelical Church.

Mrs. Mentzer passed away September 27, 1942, after being ill several months. Besides her husband and her three sons, she leaves to mourn her death: two daughters-in-law, Mrs. Loren Mentzer and Mrs. Howard Mentzer; one granddaughter, Carol Lee; three sisters, Mrs. Mary Lutz of Baldwin; Mrs. Virgil Wingfield of Yates Center; and Mrs. Frank Rose of Chanute; three brothers, John Schoepflin of Kansas City, Ed Schoepflin of Chanute, and Jake Schoepflin of Baldwin.

Her parents and one brother, Will Schoepflin, preceded her in death.

The funeral service was held in the Yates Center Evangelical Church, Rev. E. F. Boehringer officiating, assisted by Rev. R. T. Schreiber.

Burial in the Yates Center Cemetery.

Yates Center News (Yates Center, KS) 1 Oct 1942, page 5

Links:

- [Anna May Schoepflin](#) on Ancestry in Heartland Genealogy tree
- [Anna May Schoepflin](#) on FamilySearch
- [Anna May Schoepflin](#) on WikiTree

Anna May Schoepflin was born on 11 Oct 1879 in Douglas, Kansas, United States. [1–4]

She married Philip Embry Mentzer on 25 Oct 1905 at home of M. Schoepflin in Woodson County, Kansas. [3,5–9]

She lived in North Township, Woodson County, Kansas in Apr 1910. [10]

She lived in North Township, Woodson County, Kansas in 1915. [11]

Anna lived in North Township, Woodson County, Kansas on 28 Feb 1920. [12]

She lived in North Township, Woodson County, Kansas on 2 Apr 1930. [13]

She lived in North Township, Woodson County, Kansas on 6 Apr 1940. [14]

In 1942, Anna was a member of Turkey Creek Evangelical Church. [3]

She died on 27 Sep 1942 at the age of 62 in Yates Center, Kansas. [1,3–4]

The funeral was held on 29 Sep 1942 in Yates Center, Woodson, Kansas, United States. [1,3]

She was buried on 29 Sep 1942 at Yates Center Cemetery in Yates Center, Kansas. [1,3–4]

ENDNOTES:

1. Funeral Card / Memorial Book, "In Memory of Anna May Mentzer" (George Mentzer Notebook),
2. Marriage License Record, Woodson County, Kansas, [Page], Woodson County Courthouse, Yates Center, Woodson County, Kansas.
3. "Yates Center News", (Yates Center, Kansas), to (), "Mrs Philip Menzer" 1 Oct 1942 page 5 col 3 (Mentzer.KS.070); ,
4. Find a Grave, database and images, Find a Grave (www.findagrave.com : viewed online May 2017), memorial for Anna May Mentzer (1879-1942), Find a Grave Memorial no. #56845406, created by Judy Mayfield, citing Yates Center

Cemetery, Yates Center, Woodson County, Kansas; accompanying photograph by Judy Mayfield, Anna May Mentzer.

5. Marriage License Record, Woodson County, Kansas, [Page].

6. "Kansas, marriages, 1855-1911," database, FamilySearch (www.familysearch.org : viewed online May 2017), Philip E. Mentzer / Anna M. Schoepflin.

7. "Married," The Yates Center News (Yates Center, Kansas), 27 October 1905, page 5; digital images, Newspapers.com (www.newspapers.com : viewed online 19 June 2022).

8. "Local," Woodson County Advocate (Yates Center, Kansas), 27 October 1905, page 5; digital image, Newspapers.com (www.newspapers.com : viewed online 19 June 2022).

9. "Marriage Licenses," The Neosho Falls Post (Neosho Falls, Kansas), 26 October 1905, page 4; digital image, Newspapers.com (www.newspapers.com : viewed online 19 June 2022).

10. 1910 U.S. Census, Woodson County, Kansas, population schedule, North Township, Woodson County, Kansas, ED 147, sheet 9A, Image 1 of 8, household 152, Mentzer Phillip; digital image, Ancestry.com (www.ancestry.com : viewed online April 2017); NARA microfilm publication T624

11. 1915 Kansas Census, Woodson County, 1905 State Census, Woodson County, Kansas, page 3, Image 5 of 41, P.E. Mentzer; digital image, Ancestry (www.ancestry.com : viewed online April 2017); Kansas State Historical Society

12. 1920 U.S. Census, Woodson County, Kansas, population schedule, North Township, Woodson County, Kansas, ED 156, sheet 7B, Image 1 of 5, household 147, Phillip E. Mentzer; digital image, Ancestry.com (www.ancestry.com : viewed online April 2017); NARA microfilm publication T625

13. 1930 U.S. Census, Woodson County, Kansas, population Schedule, North Township, Woodson County, Kansas, ED 8, sheet 1A, Image 1 of 10, household 5, Lercival E Mentzer; digital iamge, Ancestry.com (www.ancestry.com : viewed online April 2017); NARA T626

14. 1940, Woodson County Kansas, population, North Township, Woodson County, Kansas, enumeration district (ED) ED 104-8, Sheet 1B, visited 16, Mentzer PHillip; digital image, Ancestry.com (<http://www.ancestry.com> : viewed online April 2018); National Archives adn Recods Administration, 1940.T627.

WWI War News

By Marcia Crawford Philbrick
February 8, 2025

[Nemaha County, World War I, WWI](https://heartlandgenealogy.org/2025/02/08/wwi-war-news-6/)

<https://heartlandgenealogy.org/2025/02/08/wwi-war-news-6/>



Draft Examinations Begin in Nemaha County

As the United States entered World War I in 1917, communities across the country faced the reality of conscription. Young men from Nemaha County, Kansas, were called before the local draft board for physical examinations to determine their fitness for military service. The **Courier Democrat** reported on these examinations in its [August 9, 1917](#) issue, offering a glimpse into the process, the reactions of those involved, and the challenges faced by both draftees and officials.

The draft board, consisting of local physicians and officials, evaluated candidates for physical fitness, hearing, eyesight, and other health conditions that could disqualify them from service. Some were rejected due to medical issues, while others sought exemptions based on family or occupational responsibilities. The articles highlight the community's response to the draft, the reluctance of some men to serve, and the pressures faced by young farmers and married men with families.

These reports provide a fascinating look at how the draft impacted small-town America, revealing both patriotic duty and the personal struggles of those who were called to serve.

PHYSICAL EXAMINATIONS BEGAN ON MONDAY.

By Monday noon the Examining Board, Drs. Snyder, Tolle and Sheriff Carman and County Clerk Kauffman had examined forty candidates. Of the forty, two or three were discharged because of physical disability. The

physicians had no trouble in handling the assignment for each day. Dr. Thayer served as clerk to Dr. Snyder and B. D. Graham to Dr. Tolle. After the Doc had divested the candidate of the habiliments of civilization his weight was taken. Then he would be asked to read off a row or two of figures across the room. This eyesight test is not stringent. The letters that denoted "good" eyesight were a half or three-quarters of an inch across and easily read by any person with half-way normal sight. Those denoting "poor" eyesight were much larger and only a blind man could fail to make them out. The Doc would then ask the registered young man to stop up one ear and he would be asked if he could hear numbers plainly pronounced. The process was then duplicated with the other ear. Next came the test for ringbone or bog spavin. The young colt always so proud of the way that he could kick up his heels was given a chance to show off. He was asked to jump up and kick himself in the rear with both feet. Candidates who felt like kicking themselves because their numbers were drawn were thus given an opportunity to relieve their feelings. Then the Doc would ask for a little demonstration of a crow hop. It carried one back to his childhood days. Most of the fellows hadn't crowhopped since they were kids.

Then the chest expansion and heart and lungs were tested. That was about all of it. The clerks would ask a man if he realized the necessity of making a truthful report and he signed the examination paper. Sheriff Carman passed out the exemption claim blanks. Those interested in the drawing soon began to realize what conscription means. Out of the first forty drawn the reporter was told that but two had not asked for the exemption blanks. This was written Monday noon and further news follows.

Monday night: The Board examined seventy today, finishing at 4:30. But two men failed to put in their appearance and one of these had enlisted. The other was Taylor Chamberlain who it was said was in St. Joseph where he had been injured in a scrap and was unable to be here. Out of the seventy men, eleven were disqualified because of physical disabilities and one, Henry C. Edwards, a felon convicted of forgery, was discharged because no felon may serve in the army. Edwards wanted to serve. This left fifty-eight; there are but seven who did not stand upon their claim for exemption: Clare Sparling, Oneida; Clarence Sigler, Baileyville; Will McEnaney, Corning; Jake Johnson (colored), Seneca; and Bonnie Booth, of Corning; Delbert Moyer, Centralia; George C. Adriance, Seneca.

A little over 11 per cent of the boys did not ask for claims. It may be that by the time this appears in print claims will have been filed for some of these boys who did not ask it for themselves. Or it may be that tomorrow's examinations will make a better showing for Uncle Sam. It seems hardly likely though. As an estimate formed from the first day's examinations this paper would say that fully 85 per cent of those who are not discharged for physical reasons will claim exemptions upon one ground or another.

Of course there are a lot of claims that will not hold water. It would take the government all winter to raise its quota here at the rate the boys were feeling Monday. In fact, if all the claims for exemption were allowed after counting out those discharged for physical reasons it would require about eleven hundred examinations before Nemaha County would raise its quota of 113 men. So, folks, you know, a lot of you must be disappointed. A number of young farmers wanted to claim exemption on the ground of supporting a father or mother. "Does your mother own a farm?" Sheriff Carman would ask. "Why, yes," the candidate would say. "Well, you can't ask for exemption on the ground of support," the Sheriff would say. "Your mother may need..."

Page 2

PHYSICAL EXAMINATIONS BEGAN ON MONDAY.

(Continued from 1st Page)

you to farm that farm but she isn't solely dependent upon you for support." The Sheriff would then advise to file a claim for industrial exemption. In this way Sheriff Carman probably saved several young men from service who would have certainly been drawn if they had insisted upon their original plan. Now, of course, we must not be too hasty in expressing an opinion upon these claims for exemption. A very considerable number of these young men up Monday were young married men, some with several children. Our young men in Nemaha county marry young. A man with wife and babies with nothing ahead is doing just what the government wants him to do in claiming an exemption. If he...

is tilling a farm, on his own account, the government certainly cannot afford to take from that farm. But there are a number, a certain per cent of these men who can make the sacrifice and they should look the proposition squarely in the face. The exemption boards are going to refuse a lot of claims and the young fellow may just as well begin to look at the facts as they stand. This applies to parents as well. It is going to call for heart-aches and sorrow. That is war. The suffering is not confined to the boy who goes from home. The folks who are left are the ones that grieve. On another page we print a list of those who passed the physical examination so far as we could get them up to the time of going to press.

Saturday Night Genealogy Fun

By Marcia Crawford Philbrick
February 9, 2025

[Foster, SaturdayNightGenealogyFun](#)

<https://heartlandgenealogy.org/2025/02/09/saturday-night-genealogy-fun-143/>

It's Time for More ...



Saturday Night Genealogy Fun!

Calling all [Genea-Musings](#) Fans:

It's Saturday Night again –

Time for some more Genealogy Fun!!

Come on, everybody, join in and accept the mission and execute it with precision.

- 1) Every one of your ancestors was doing “something” in their life in early 1925? Do you know, or do you have to guess?
- 2) Tell us about what your ancestors were doing in early 1925 in your own blog post, in a comment on this post, or in a Facebook post. Please leave a link on this post if you write your own post.

Grandparents

- Leon Russel Crawford (1894-1976) – was a switchman in the train yard. He was living at 510 Avenue G in Dodge City, Ford County, Kansas.
- Winnie Letha Currey (1903-1992) – was listed on the 1925 Kansas census in the household of Leon Crawford. In

1925, Leon and Winnie did not have any living children. A child, Betty, died at birth in 1921.

- Edward Osmond Briles (1891-1956) – operated a threshing machine in 1925. He was listed on the 1925 Kansas census in Iola, Allen County, Kansas.
- Pauline Edith Mentzer (1896-1984) – was listed on the 1925 Kansas census in the household of Edward Hassmond Briles in Iola, Allen County, Kansas. In 1925, Pauline was the mother of Walter and Letha. Her son, Kenneth was born in September 1918 and died in June 1919.

Great Grandparents

- Judson Foster Crawford (1866-1949) – was working as a yard man for the railroad in 1925. He was listed on the 1925 Kansas census living at 504 Avenue G in Dodge City, Ford County, Kansas.
- Josie Winifred Hammond Crawford (1874-1954) – was listed on the 1925 Kansas census living in the household of J. F. Crawford at 504 Avenue G in Dodge City, Ford County, Kansas. In 1925, Josie's living children included Bernice Allen, Leon Crawford, Helen Horton, Hugh Crawford, Esther Noll and Louis Maden. Her son, Marion died in 1920.
- Hiram Miles Crawford (1866-1943) – Was working as a section hand in 1925. He was listed on the 1925 Kansas census in Logan, Gray County, Kansas. His wife, Winifred May Hutchinson passed away in 1913 leaving him with the following children: Herbert Miles Currey, Myrtle Irene Currey Gaskill, Mary Lela Currey Walters, Winnie Letha Currey Crawford, Earnest Oran Currey and Alma Jean Currey Taylor.
- Edward Grant Briles (1869-1951) – was listed as a retired farmer on the 1925 Kansas census living in Iola, Allen County, Kansas
- Frances Artlissa 'Artie' Ricketts (1868-1947) – Was listed on the 1925 Kansas census living in the household of Edward G Briles in Iola, Allen County, Kansas. Frances was the mother of Edward Osmond Briles, Ethel Frances Briles Smith, Glen Briles and Lula Belle Briles Copes. All four children were living in 1925.
- Charles Oliver Mentzer (1869-1955) – Was listed as a farmer on the 1925 Kansas census living in Everett Township, Woodson County, Kansas
- Nettie Adell Wells (1873-1939) – was listed on the 1925 Kansas census in the household of Charles Mentzer living in Everett Township, Woodson County, Kansas. Nettie was the mother of Gladys Olive Mentzer Green, Paul Emory Mentzer, Pauline Edith Mentzer Briles, Leslie George Mentzer and Herbert Wells Mentzer. All of Nettie and Charles' children were living in 1925.

Great Great Grandparents

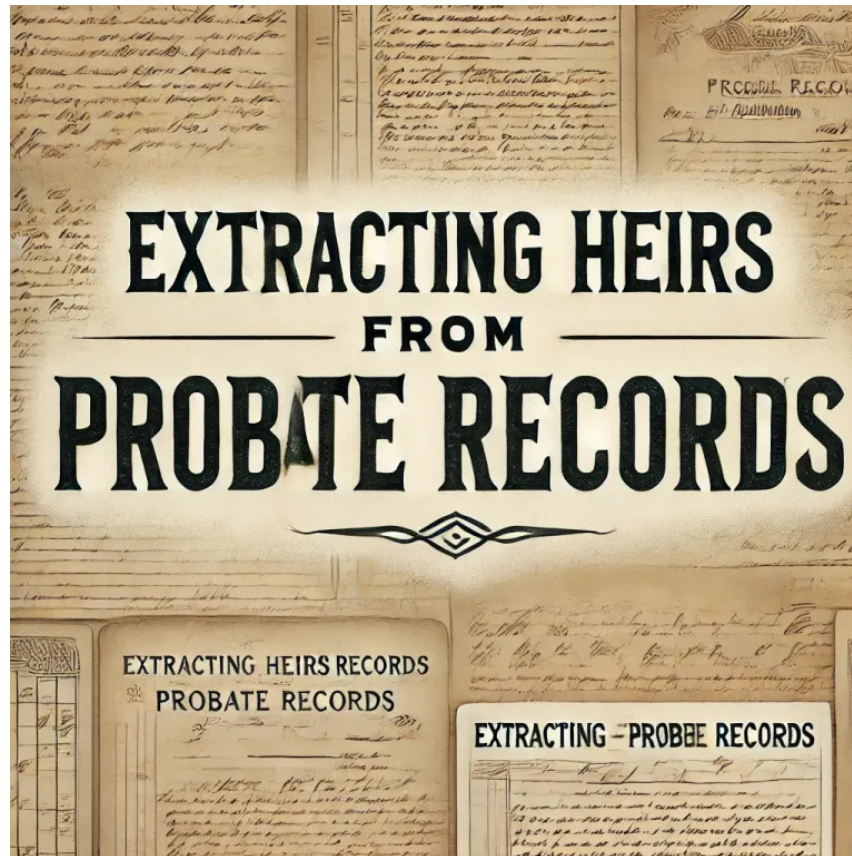
- Mary Foster Crawford (1842-1929) – Was listed as the head of household on the 1925 Kansas census living at 911 Second Street in Dodge City Ford County, Kansas. Her husband, Washington Marion Crawford, had died in 1889.
- Richmond Fisk Hammond (1840-1928) – Was a resident of Sawtelle Soldier's Home in Sawtelle, Los Angeles County, California. His first wife, Sarah Ellen Ralston Hammond, passed away in 1892. Richmond married Mary McClure in 1897 and she passed away in 1901. Richmond married for a third time in 1906 in Kinsley, Kansas to Mrs Mary Grim.
- Sarah Jane Thompson Briles (1843-1930) – Was living in the household of her daughter, Angine Myers, on the 1925 Kansas census living in Neosho Township, Coffey County, Kansas. Her husband, Noah Washington Briles, died in 1879.
- Rachel Emeda Christy Ricketts (1845-1927) – Was living in the household of her son-in-law, Edward G Briles, on the 1925 census in Iola, Allen County, Kansas. Her husband, James Marshall Ricketts, died in 1920.
- Emeline Minnick Mentzer (1848-1927) – Listed as a head of household on the 1925 Kansas census living in Yates Center, Woodson County, Kansas. Her husband, George Mentzer, died in 1912.

Chance Family

By Marcia Crawford Philbrick
February 10, 2025

[Bland, Missouri](#)

<https://heartlandgenealogy.org/2025/02/10/chance-family/>



Have you ever come across a complex probate record that lists the children and grandchildren of the deceased? Were you able to easily extract and organize all the information into a clear list?

Instead of manually combing through the three pages of the Chance probate file to identify all the heirs, I turned to ChatGPT, and it quickly organized the information for me. Unfortunately, ChatGPT made an error with the family of William Chance, Jr. which shows why one must 'fact check' everything.

Here is a breakdown of the heirs of [William Chance Sr. \[L4HF-VRY\]](#) organized by their parentage **as identified by ChatGPT** with corrections italicized.

Children of William Chance Sr.

1. **Julia A. Gilliam** [L4HF-V16]
2. **Frances M. Chance** – *not a child but grandchild – William Chance Jr is the child*
3. **Alexander Chance** – *not a child but grandchild – William Chance Jr is the child*
4. **Julia A. Chance** (child of William Chance Jr., deceased) – *not a child but grandchild – William Chance Jr [K69K-2TP] is the child*
5. **Dennis Chance** (deceased) [L4HF-VYK]
6. **Grizzy Blain** (mother of Sarah Ann Tungeth) [KD1F-JDK]
7. **Polly Yocum** (deceased) [K6M9-SY1]
8. **Richard Chance** (deceased) [9QBL-YSG]

Grandchildren of William Chance Sr. Organized by Their Parent:**William Chance Jr. (Deceased)**

- Frances M. Chance
- Alexander Chance
- Julia A. Chance

Dennis Chance (Deceased)

- William H. Chance
- James H. Chance
- John W. Chance
- Albert W. Chance
- Alonzo Dennis Chance

Grizzy Blain

- Sarah Ann Tungeth

Polly Yocum (Deceased)

- Mary Graham (child)
 - Sarah E. Hedricks
 - Jesse Hedrick
 - Lunetta Hedricks
 - Frances A. Hedricks
 - Hannah Hedricks
- (children of Sarah Ann Hedricks, and grandchildren of Polly Yocum) – *note should apply to all Hedrick/Hedricks children*

Richard Chance (Deceased)

- Benjamin F. Chance
- Richard P. Chance
- William S. Chance
- Robert E. Chance

“Andrew, Missouri, United States records,” images, FamilySearch
(<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3QSQ-G9GP-49LV?view=fullText> : Jan 17, 2025), image 19 of 70; Missouri. State Archives.

Film Number/Image Group Number: 100787907

Probate case files, no. 595, pt. 1, Chance, William Sr. & minors, 1865

[image 37](#)

Savannah , Mo . –
June 23rd 1869

This cause coming on for hearing the
Court after parties appeared
and by atton their respective attys and the

court after hearing the allegations in the pleadings and the evidence finds that that William Chance departed this life testate and that since he left living Julia A. Gilliam his child and . Frances M. Chances Alexander Chance , Julia A. Chance , children of Wm Chanc Jun deceased , and grand children of said Wm Chance sen , deceased ; William H Chance , James H. Chase John W. Chance , Albert W. Chance & Alonzo Dennis Chance children of Dennis Chance deceased and grand children of said William Chance sen dec and Sarah Ann Trenget child of Grizzly Blain and grand child of said Wm Chanc sen dec and also Mary Graham child of Polly Yocum dec and grand daughter of Wm Chance sen dec and also Sarah E. Hedricks Jesse Hedrick , Lunetta Hedricks Frances A Hedricks & Hannah Hedricks children of Sarah and also Sarah Hedrick who was a daughter of Polly Yocum dec Yocum great grand children of said Wm Chance sen dec

Image 38
and also Richard Chance child of said Wm Chance sen dec, as his legal heirs at Law , that since the decease of said Wm Chance Sen dec said Richard Chance has departed this life intestate and left living Benjamin F. Chance , Richard P. Chance William S. Chance & Robert E Chance his children and heirs at law . The Court further finds that said Wm Chance sen dec made a last will and testament by which he attempted to dispose of his estate ; but that said Wm Chance sen dec failed to make any provision in his said last will whatever in favor of or mention the names of a certain of said of heirs vix, Julia A Gilliam Frances M. Alexander & Julia A.hance or their father Wm Chance jun dec William H. James . H. John W. Alber W and Alonza P Chance , or this father , Dennis Chance dec Also said Richard Chance his son then living but now deceased , and the father of said Benjamin F. Richard R. Wm S. & Robert E Chance and the court further finds that said heirs of said Wm Chance sen dec , who were not provided for or mentioned in his said will never

image 39

received any thing from said Wm Chance sen dec , in his lifetime by way of advancement . It is therefore ordered by the court that distribution of said estate after pay all costs & expences of administration

in the hands of the administrator t
hereof be made as follows . among
the heirs of said William Chance sen
dece To Julia Ann Gillian one
sixth part thereof to Frances
M Alexander & Julia A Chance (Mary Chance being dead)
children of William Chance jun dec the
one sixth part thereof . To William
H James H. John W. & Alonza D
Chance , children of Dennis Chance dec
the one sixth part thereof
To Sarah A. Tungeth child of Grizzly
Blain the one sixth part thereof
To at Mary Graham daughter of Polly
Yocum one twelfth thereof
To Sarah E. Jesse H. Lunetta
Frances Ann . and Hannah Hedricks
children of Sarah Ann Hedricks , and T
grand children of said Polly Yocum
one twelfth part thereof
To Benjamin F Richard P. William S.
and Robert E Chance children of
Richard Chance deceased the one
Six part thereof

WW2 Newspaper Accounts

By Marcia Crawford Philbrick
February 11, 2025

[Nemaha County, World War II, WWII](https://heartlandgenealogy.org/2025/02/11/ww2-newspaper-accounts-3/)

<https://heartlandgenealogy.org/2025/02/11/ww2-newspaper-accounts-3/>



Have you used newspaper accounts to piece together someone's military service? The Nemaha County, Kansas, newspapers are a treasure trove of information, providing valuable insights into the lives and service of those who served in the military during World War II.

Today's clipping comes from the July 31, 1941 issue of the [Courier Tribune](#).

Conscientious Objector To Go in August

Nemaha County has few selective service registrants who claim conscientious objection to military service. Of course, where they are not otherwise 1-A men, the matter is not of primary importance because they would not be called anyway.

Wilbur J. Grimm, whose home is northeast of Oneida, is the first 1-A man reached so far to claim conscientious objection. He has passed one medical examination. If he passes a re-examination, he will be sent to a camp for objectors at Magnolia, Arkansas, the middle of next month, where he will spend his year in non-military work.

Report on Three More From Leavenworth

Ft. Leavenworth—William B. Stanton, Centralia, Raphael L. Dalsing, Seneca, and Joseph A. Barrett, Wetmore, recent Nemaha County inductees, have been assigned to the Ordnance replacement training

center at Aberdeen, Maryland. They were included in a group of 60 men which left Ft. Leavenworth Tuesday.

Later, Mr. and Mrs. Clem Dalsing were at Ft. Leavenworth Tuesday to visit their son before he left for Maryland. At that time, it was expected Joseph Barrett would not be transferred for a few days because a vaccination on his arm had taken hard.

Prompted

By Marcia Crawford Philbrick
February 12, 2025

[Gallimore, Ohio](#)

<https://heartlandgenealogy.org/2025/02/12/prompted/>



Have you ever written a blog post inspired by another genealogy blogger's prompt? Many of us participate in Randy Seaver's [Saturday Night Genealogy Fun](#) or Amy Johnson Crow's [52 Ancestors in 52 Weeks](#). But have you ever found yourself prompted by another blogger's post about one of your own ancestors?

That's exactly what happened to me recently while reading my Feedly account. I came across a fascinating post by Cari A. Taplin on her [Genealogy Pants](#) blog. In her post, [Full-Text Search Finds Another One](#), Cari shared her discovery of probate documents for William Gallimore's estate tucked inside another packet. This caught my attention because William Gallimore's son, Isom Gallimore, is one of my 4th great-grandfathers on the Briles side of my family tree.

Intrigued, I opened my RootsMagic file to review what I had on Isom Gallimore. To my surprise, I realized my research on him was sparse. Cari's post inspired me to dig deeper, so I began exploring Ancestry hints and using FamilySearch's full-text search feature to fill in the gaps.

Below is a biography for Isom Gallimore, generated by ChatGPT using the updated information in my narrative report.

Biographical Account of Isom Gallimore and Judith Bentley

Isom Gallimore was born on September 25, 1799, in North Carolina, United States. By 1820, he was living in Richland Township, Clinton County, Ohio, and soon began acquiring land in the area. On November 2, 1830, Isom purchased 100 acres in Clinton County, marking the start of his significant landholdings. Over the next two decades, he actively engaged in buying and selling land, including the sale of 53 acres to Jesse More in 1836 and various other parcels in Fayette

County during the 1840s and early 1850s.

By 1840, Isom had relocated to Jefferson Township, Fayette County, Ohio. His land transactions continued to reflect his prosperity, including a sale of 463 acres to Isaac Parrot in 1848 and additional sales of 40 acres to David Creamer and 98 acres to Samuel Willis in 1849 and 1850, respectively. In September 1850, he was recorded in the census as a resident of Jasper Township, Fayette County, Ohio. His prominence in the community was further demonstrated when he was appointed executor of Marshall Christy's will in 1851.

Isom Gallimore passed away on March 3, 1859, at the age of 59. He was laid to rest at Baker Cemetery in Scircleville, Clinton County, Indiana.

Judith Bentley, Isom's wife, was born on February 26, 1804, in Clinton County, Ohio. She was the daughter of Benoni (Benjamin) Bentley and Rebecca Pearson. Isom and Judith were married on March 8, 1822, in Clinton County, Ohio, after obtaining their marriage license on Christmas Day of 1821.

Judith's life mirrored the movement of her family, with recorded residences in Jasper Township, Fayette County, Ohio, in 1850 and Sugar Creek Township, Clinton County, Indiana, in 1860. Later in life, she moved to Iowa, living in Douglas Township, Clay County, in 1870, and Herdland Township in 1880.

Judith Bentley Gallimore lived a long life, passing away on April 3, 1894, at the age of 90 in Clay County, Iowa. She was buried in Burr Oak Cemetery in Herdland Township, where she remains commemorated.

Together, Isom and Judith Gallimore exemplified the industrious and resilient spirit of early American pioneers, leaving a legacy reflected in their extensive land dealings and the generations of descendants who followed.

Narrative Report for Isom Gallimore as Produced by RootsMagic 10

Isom Gallimore was born on 25 Sep 1799 in North Carolina, United States. [1–2]

He lived in Richland Township, Clinton, Ohio in 1820. [3]

He purchased land containing 100 acres on 2 Nov 1830 in Clinton, Ohio, United States. [4]

Isom sold land containing 53 acres to Jesse More on 5 Apr 1836 in Clinton, Ohio, United States. [5]

He lived in Jefferson Township, Fayette, Ohio, United States in 1840. [6]

He sold land containing 463 acres to Isaac Parrot on 31 Mar 1848 in Fayette, Ohio, United States. [7]

Isom sold land containing 40 acres to David Creamer on 5 Sep 1849 in Fayette, Ohio, United States. [8]

He sold land containing 98 acres to Samuel Willis on 3 Sep 1850 in Fayette, Ohio, United States. [9]

He sold land containing 275 acres to Aaron Johnson on 3 Sep 1850 in Fayette, Ohio, United States. [10]

Isom lived in Jasper Township, Fayette, Ohio, United States on 21 Sep 1850. [1]

He was appointed executor on 24 Mar 1851 in Fayette, Ohio, United States. of the will of Marshall Christy [11–12]

He died on 3 Mar 1859 at the age of 59. [2]

Isom was buried at Baker Cemetery in Scircleville, Clinton, Indiana, United States. [2]

Isom Gallimore and Judith Bentley obtained a marriage license on 25 Dec 1821 in Clinton, Ohio, United States. [13–14]

They were married on 8 Mar 1822 in Clinton, Ohio, United States. [15]

Judith Bentley, daughter of Benoni (Benjamin) Bentley and Rebecca Pearson, was born on 26 Feb 1804 in Clinton, Ohio, United States. [16]

She lived in Jasper Township, Fayette County, North Carolina on 21 Sep 1850. [1]

She lived in Sugar Creek Township, Clinton, Indiana, United States in 1860. [17]

Judith lived in Douglas Township, Clay, Iowa, United States in 1870. [18]

She lived in Herdland Township, Clay, Iowa, United States in 1880. [19]

She died on 3 Apr 1894 at the age of 90 in Clay, Iowa, United States. [16]

Judith was buried at Burr Oak Cemetery in Herdland Township, Clay, Iowa, United States. [16,20]

Endnotes:

1. 1850 U.S. Census, Fayette County Ohio, population schedule, Jasper Township, Fayette County, Ohio, page 156, Image 23 of 29, family 1298, Isom Galimore; digital image, Ancestry.com (www.ancestry.com : viewed online 22 January 2025); NARA microfilm publication M432.
2. Find a Grave, database and images, Find a Grave (www.findagrave.com : viewed online May 2018), memorial for Isom Gallimore (1799-1859), Find a Grave Memorial no. #15032081, created by Richard Duran, citing Baker Cemetery, Scircleville, Clinton County, Indiana; accompanying photograph by Richard Duran, Isom Gallimore.
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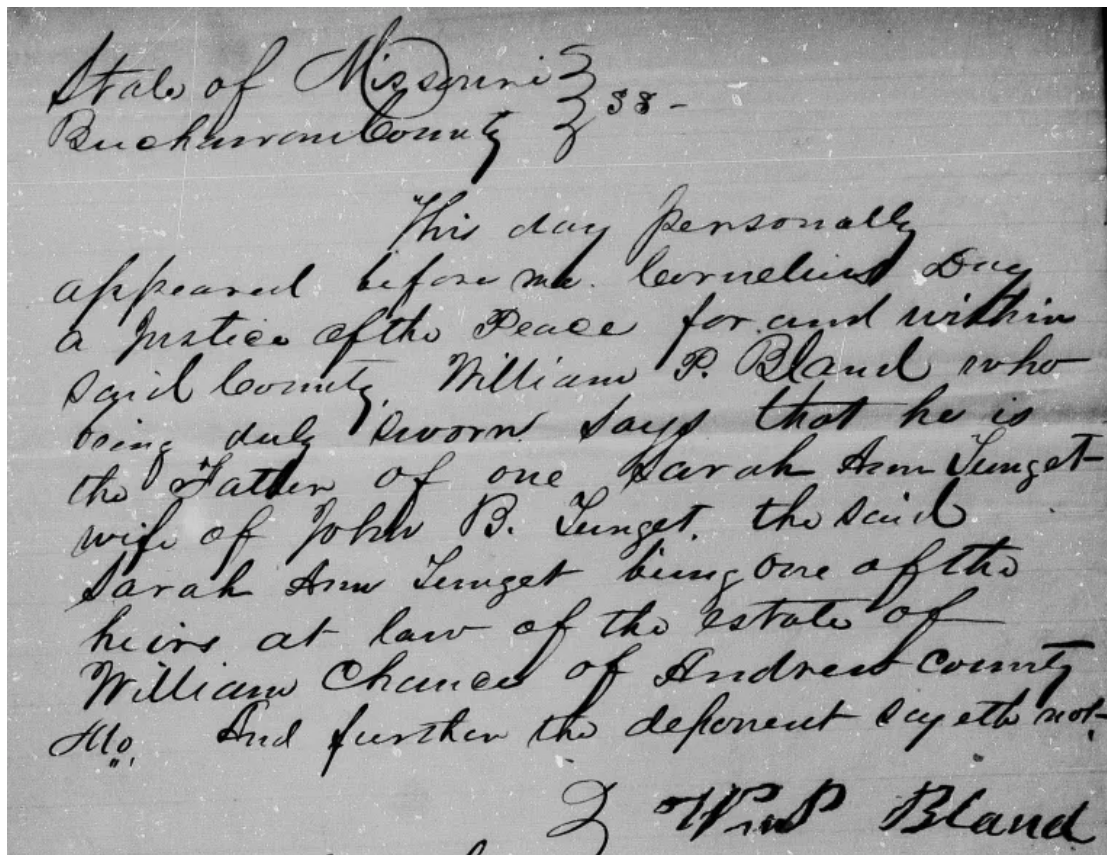
Photo Hints

By Marcia Crawford Philbrick

February 13, 2025

[Bland, Missouri](#)

<https://heartlandgenealogy.org/2025/02/13/photo-hints-2/>



Do you use Ancestry's photo hints? I have to admit, I often overlook them. However, a recent discovery prompted me to dig deeper into some of those hints to help uncover the first wife of William P. Bland.

After analyzing a court record identifying the children of Eli Bland, I determined that William P. Bland was not one of Eli's children and removed him from Eli's family. Since William lived in Missouri near Eli's children, I wanted to explore whether there might still be a familial connection between William and the Eli Bland family.

To investigate further, I began researching William and his children. My records included four children: Elkanah (b. 1839), [Sarah](#) (b. 1842), Rosaline (b. 1849), and Thomas (b. 1853). However, I overlooked an important detail: two of these children, Elkanah and Sarah, were born before William's 1848 marriage to Phebe Randolph. This raised the question of who their mother was.

Hoping that hints for Elkanah and Sarah might offer clues, I revisited their profiles on Ancestry. Typically, I ignore photo hints like tombstone images or death certificate photos in favor of actual records. However, [Sarah's hints](#) included several intriguing photo hints that appeared to be court documents. One particular photo stood out—an affidavit signed by William P. Bland stating that Sarah Ann Tungett was his daughter and an heir at law of William Chance. Unfortunately, the photo provided no source information.

Determined to find the original record, I turned to FamilySearch's Experimental Labs and located the [affidavit](#) within the William Chance probate case file in Andrew County, Missouri. This discovery not only confirmed the relationship but also provided valuable insight into William P. Bland's family.

Ancestry's photo hints proved unexpectedly helpful in advancing my research. Have you ever found a surprising lead using them?

William P. Bland's Affidavit

Andrew County Missouri
Probate Case Files

"Andrew, Missouri, United States records," images, FamilySearch
(<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3QSQ-G9GP-49LV?view=fullText> : Jan 17, 2025), image 19 of 70; Missouri. State Archives.

Film Number/Image Group Number: 100787907

Probate case files, no. 595, pt. 1, Chance, William Sr. & minors, 1865

Image 19

State of Missouri
Buchanan County
This day personally
appeared before me Cornelius Day
a Justice of the Peace for and within
said County William P. Bland who
being duly sworn says that he is
the Father of one Sarah Ann Tunget
wife of John B. Turget the said
Sarah Ann Tunget being one of the
heirs at law of the estate of
William Chance of Andrew County
Mo And further the deponent sayeth not
Wm P Bland

Subscribed and
Sworn to before
me this 8th day
of March 1867

Cornelius Day
Justice of the Peace

STATE OF MISSOURI ,
COUNTY OF BUCHANAN ,

I , WILLIS M. SHERWOOD , Clerk of the County Court within and for
the county and State aforesaid , do hereby certify that Cornelius day
is , and was , at the time of the signing of the foregoing instrument of writing , an acting Justice of the
Peace in and for the County and State aforesaid , duly com
missioned and qualified to take acknowledgements of Deeds and other instruments of writing , according
to the laws of this state , and that his acts , as such , are entitled to full faith and credit , and furthermore ,
that his signature attached to the instrument of writing aforesaid is genuine .

In Testimony whereof , I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Seal of
said Court this 9th day of April A. D. 1867

Willis M Sherwood Clerk .
by M[?]

Happy Valentine's Day 2025

By Marcia Crawford Philbrick
February 14, 2025

[Marriage](#)

<https://heartlandgenealogy.org/2025/02/14/happy-valentines-day-2025/>



To celebrate Valentine's Day, I'm re-posting my previous post about Golden Wedding anniversaries.

During 2024, my husband and I celebrated our 50th wedding anniversary in May. Then in December, my brother and his wife celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. In addition, my parents were married for over fifty years.

Grandparents:

- Leon Crawford and Winnie Currey — married Dec 1919; They were married **56 years** before Leon passed away in Oct. 1976.
- Edward Osmond Briles and Pauline Mentzer were married Oct 1915. They were married 40 years when Edward passed away. Pauline never remarried.

Great Grandparents:

- Judson Crawford and Josie Hammond were married Dec 1890. They were married **58 years** when Judson passed away.

Their Golden Wedding Day

J. F. Crawford's Have Family Reunion

This is the thirty-third family Christmas celebration in the J. F. Crawford home, 104 Avenue O, but today is the most auspicious occasion ever celebrated in that home as all their sons and daughters and most of their grandchildren are on hand to help Mr. and Mrs. Crawford celebrate their golden wedding anniversary.

Tuesday is Christmas and that will be fine, but today is the golden wedding anniversary, and that is the big occasion for the house full of flowers. Mr. and Mrs. Crawford show guests who drop in. Part of the guests came directly out of the garden of their son, Hugh Crawford of Peashe, Ariz. The Hugh Crawford arrived Monday and brought the flowers with them. There are a lot of other flowers too and many other mementos.

The day also is the twenty-first wedding anniversary of their son, Lein and Mrs. Crawford.

The Crawford anniversary is the fourth golden wedding anniversary among members of the Dodge City Oldtimers club, since it was organized seven years ago and all four marriages occurred in Dodge City.

Married in Dodge

Mr. and Mrs. Crawford were married in the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. H. F. Hammond, on Central Avenue, December 14, 1890. She was Julie Hammond, not quite seventeen, and Mr. Crawford was a young railroad man, a son of Mr. and Mrs. Marion Crawford, who ran a boarding house in Dodge City. With the exception of a year they spent in Newton, Mr. and Mrs. Crawford have lived ever since in Dodge City.

she had come from Knox county, Ill., with her parents, and he from Lebanon, Ind., with his family, to Dodge City.

In 1907 Mr. and Mrs. Crawford had their present home built. Mr. Hammond, a contractor, doing the work. Four years ago last spring Mr. Crawford became 71 years old and retired as a Santa Fe switchman in the Dodge City yards. During these fifty years while Mr. Crawford engaged in gardening and in activities of railroad men, Mrs. Crawford found time while rearing her family to engage in many club activities.

For a good many years she served as secretary of the Ford county chapter of Red Cross and is still on the executive board. She was one of the Dodge City women who formed the Oldtimers club seven years ago, but she is most proud of all of her

connection with the East Side Bible class, an organization of women who have been meeting regularly for 25 years in homes of members to study the Bible. Mrs. Crawford was one of the organizers of the class in 1917 following a series of revival meetings by Evangelist Hayburn. Each Friday the women meet for their study. Often their meetings now are not in the east side of town, for their membership extends pretty well over the city, but their name remains the original East Side Bible class.

Children Home

One son of the Crawfords, Marion Crawford, was killed in an accident in the yards here in 1920. Six other sons and daughters survive and all are home for the anniversary celebration. They are Mrs. Russell Hamilton and Leon H. Crawford of Dodge City, Mrs. George Allen and Miss Esther Crawford of Tucson, Ariz., Hugh Crawford of Peashe, Ariz., and Mrs. Ralph Maden of Springfield, Colo.

In the anniversary party today, the youngest grandchild is there at the age of three weeks. He is David Maden of Springfield, with Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Maden, Larry, Lillian, Jean and Dallas Maden. Mr. and Mrs. Allen of Tucson have Arlene and Thida Allen; Gaudine Crawford is with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Crawford, and the Dodge City grandchildren present are Eugene and Leon Russell H. Crawford, Elaine Horton, Russell Horton, Jr., who is in Wichita and Mrs. Kenneth Book, who with Mr. Book is there. Two grandchildren unable to attend the anniversary were Judson Allen of Tucson, and Mrs. Fred Allen of Tucson. The only Crawford grandchild is Paylla, the daughter of the Judson Allen.

- Hiram Currey and Winnie Hutchinson were married 22 years when Winnie passed away. Hiram never remarried
- Edward Grant Briles and Frances Artliss "Artie" Ricketts were married in Feb 1890. They were married **57 years** when Artie passed away.

Celebrate 50 Years of Married Life

Monday, Feb. 19, 1940, being the fiftieth wedding anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. E. G. Briles, the children planned a family reunion on Sunday the 18th, to celebrate the occasion.

The linen tablecloth and three of the dishes were the same as were used on the table at the wedding dinner. Mrs. Briles' sister, Mrs. Cokley, of Iola, was present on both occasions. All of the four children, seven grandchildren and two great grandchildren were present except one grandson, Walter Briles, and one great grandson, David Briles. The grandson belongs to the U. S. Coast Guards and is stationed at Ft. Stevens, Ore.

Those present were Mr. and Mrs. E. O. Briles, Letha, Roberta, and Barbara Anne; Mr. and Mrs. Harry Darby, Mr. and Mrs. Glen Smalling and Patricia, and Mrs. Frances Morris, all of Emporia; Mr. and Mrs. Glen Briles and Mary Frances, Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Cope, of Yates Center, and Mrs. May Cokley, of Iola. In the afternoon Mr. and Mrs. Leslie Mentzer, Lila and Billy, of Neesho Falls, were callers.

Many cards and gifts were received with congratulations for future happiness.

- Charles Mentzer and Nettie Wells were married in Oct 1893. They were married 46 years when Nettie passed away.

2nd Great Grandparents

- Washington Marion Crawford and Mary Foster were married in March 1860. They were married 29 years when Washington Crawford passed away. Mary Crawford never remarried.
- Richmond Fisk Hammond and Sarah Ellen Ralston were married in Jan 1867. They were married 25 years when Sarah passed away. Richmond married Mary McClure in 1897. In 1906, Richmond married Mary Reynolds.
- Hiram M Currey and Angelina Jane Burke were married in 1856. They were married 44 years when both Hiram and Angelina passed away.
- Albert Hutchinson and Julia Harding were married in 1859. They were married 33 years when Julia passed away in 1892. Albert passed away in 1896.
- Noah Briles and Sarah Thompson were married in August 1866. They were married 13 years when Noah passed away. Sarah married J. D. Davis but later divorced him.
- James Marshall Ricketts and Rachel Christy were married Jul 1866. They were married **54 years** before James passed away in 1920. Rachel passed away 7 years later.
- George Mentzer and Emeline Minnick were married in 1867. They were married 45 years when George passed away in 1912. Emeline never remarried.
- Thurston Kennedy Wells and Salme Adell Crandall were married in May 1861. They were married 35 years when they both passed away. This was Thurston's second marriage after the death of his first wife, Sarah Hall.

3rd Great Grandparents

- Nelson G. Crawford and Martha Smith were married in 1833. They were almost married 32 years when Nelson passed away. Martha never remarried.
- Zebulon Foster and Caroline Ostrander were married in 1833. They were married 38 years when Caroline passed away. Zebulon then married Juliet Fleming.
- Horatio Hammond and Louisa Fisk were married in 1825. They were married 49 years when Louisa passed away in 1874. Horatio died in 1879.
- James Barr Ralston and Nancy Jane McCormick were married in 1836. They were married **68 years** when James passed away in 1904. Nancy died three years later.
- Hiram M. Currey married Rachel Harris in 1824. Death dates are unknown since records cannot be found for 1850 or later.
- Henry F Burke married Elizabeth Bland in 1835. They were married 10 years when Henry passed away. Angelina may have remarried but documentation has not been found.
- William G Harding and Elizabeth Fowler were married in 1830. They were married 16 years when Elizabeth passed away. William then married Eliza Henderson.
- Alexander Briles married Sarah Rush in 1836. They were married 36 years when Sarah passed away. Alexander then married Elizabeth Ellsworth.
- William Taylor Thompson and Polly Ann Evans were married in 1842. They were married 46 years when Polly passed away in 1896. William died in 1898.
- John Lewis Ricketts and Orilda Reed were married in 1846. They were married 42 years when John passed away in 1888. Orilda died in 1900.
- Samuel Christy and Lyda Gallimore were married in 1842. They were married 22 years when Lyda passed away. Samuel then married Mariah Burk and Mary Susan Amos.
- Phillip Andrew Mentzer and Orinda Miles were married in 1816. They were married 29 years when Phillip passed away.
- John Minnick and Elizabeth Mary Jones were married before 1850. They would have been married at least 16 years when Elizabeth passed away. John then married Phebe Tripp in 1870.
- Ozias Wells and Mary Keneedy were married in 1818. They were married 14 years when Ozias passed away.
- A marriage date for Lewis Crandall and Almira Nafus is unknown at this time. Almira passed away prior to 1846 when Lewis Crandall married Anna Tuttle.

Counting my parents, I have SIX sets of ancestors married for 50 years. The longest marriage in my tree was for James Barr Ralston and Nancy Jane McCormick.

WWI War News

By Marcia Crawford Philbrick
February 15, 2025

[Nemaha County, World War I, WWI](https://heartlandgenealogy.org/2025/02/15/wwi-war-news-7/)

<https://heartlandgenealogy.org/2025/02/15/wwi-war-news-7/>



A Soldier's Letter from Hawaii: Life in the U.S. Army During World War I

As young men from Nemaha County answered the call to serve in **World War I**, letters from those stationed far from home provided a vital connection to their families and communities. One such letter, written by **Embert Coles** from **Fort Ruger, Hawaii**, was published in the [August 9, 1917](#) issue of the *Courier Democrat*, offering readers a firsthand glimpse into the daily life of a soldier.

In his letter, Coles describes military inspections, the discipline required to maintain equipment and quarters, and the camaraderie among soldiers. He also shares efforts to establish a **company library**, the importance of recreation, and his observations on patriotism back home. His words provide a vivid picture of the challenges and routines of military service while reassuring those in Seneca that the young men stationed in Hawaii remained committed to their duty.

This letter serves as a compelling historical record, shedding light on the experiences of local soldiers during **America's involvement in the Great War**.

COAST ARTILLERYMAN COLES WRITES FROM H. T.

Ft. Ruger, H. T., July 21, 1917.

Dear Friends:

We don't have any drills on Saturday afternoon so I guess I will write a few letters. I received two *Couriers* this week and after reading everything in them sent them to the boys at Kamahamaha. Judging from the way Seneca has been giving to the Red Cross and the Army Y. M. C. A., I would say that all her patriots are not with the colors. I haven't been **able to visit the Army Y. M. C. A.** here but I understand that one of the nicest hotels in Honolulu is being remodeled for a Y. M. C. A.

We had inspection this morning and I thought perhaps Seneca people might be interested in knowing just how a soldier must take care of his clothing, equipment, etc. Every Saturday morning the officers of the company inspect it. For this inspection, everyone must have on a clean suit, his shoes must be shined, he must have a shave and haircut, and his rifle must be clean. And I'll tell you, these officers can sure see a spot of dust on a rifle, and they don't hesitate about telling a fellow about it either. After we have passed this inspection, the officers inspect our quarters. There is a prescribed way for making our beds, arrangement of our shoes, etc. This morning I heard a fellow get "called" because he didn't have his clothes arranged correctly in his locker. If a man doesn't obey the rules, he is likely to get some extra work or perhaps a fine.

Our camp is kept up as clean as any lawn in Seneca. We go through camp every morning and pick up all rubbish, even to matches and small sticks.

Every soldier is as proud of his company as a student of his school, and he is willing to do most anything for its betterment. This week there was a collection taken up in order to get funds to purchase a company library. I understand that we raised about \$400, which amounts to about \$4.00 apiece from the men in our company. We will have a number of good magazines and dailies from the mainland and a number of good books.

We drill about four hours each day and work between times; of course, we are not kept busy all the time but are given a considerable amount of time for recreation. There is to be a field meet here between the companies next Thursday.

I guess I had better close for this time. If the people at home are getting along as well as the boys on the Island, there is no cause for complaint. I'm sure there isn't a Seneca boy here that is sick of his bargain.

With best regards from all the boys,
I am your friend—

EMBERT COLES.

Saturday Night Genealogy Fun

By Marcia Crawford Philbrick
February 16, 2025

[SaturdayNightGenealogyFun](https://heartlandgenealogy.org/2025/02/16/saturday-night-genealogy-fun-144/)

<https://heartlandgenealogy.org/2025/02/16/saturday-night-genealogy-fun-144/>

It's Time for More ...



Saturday Night Genealogy Fun!

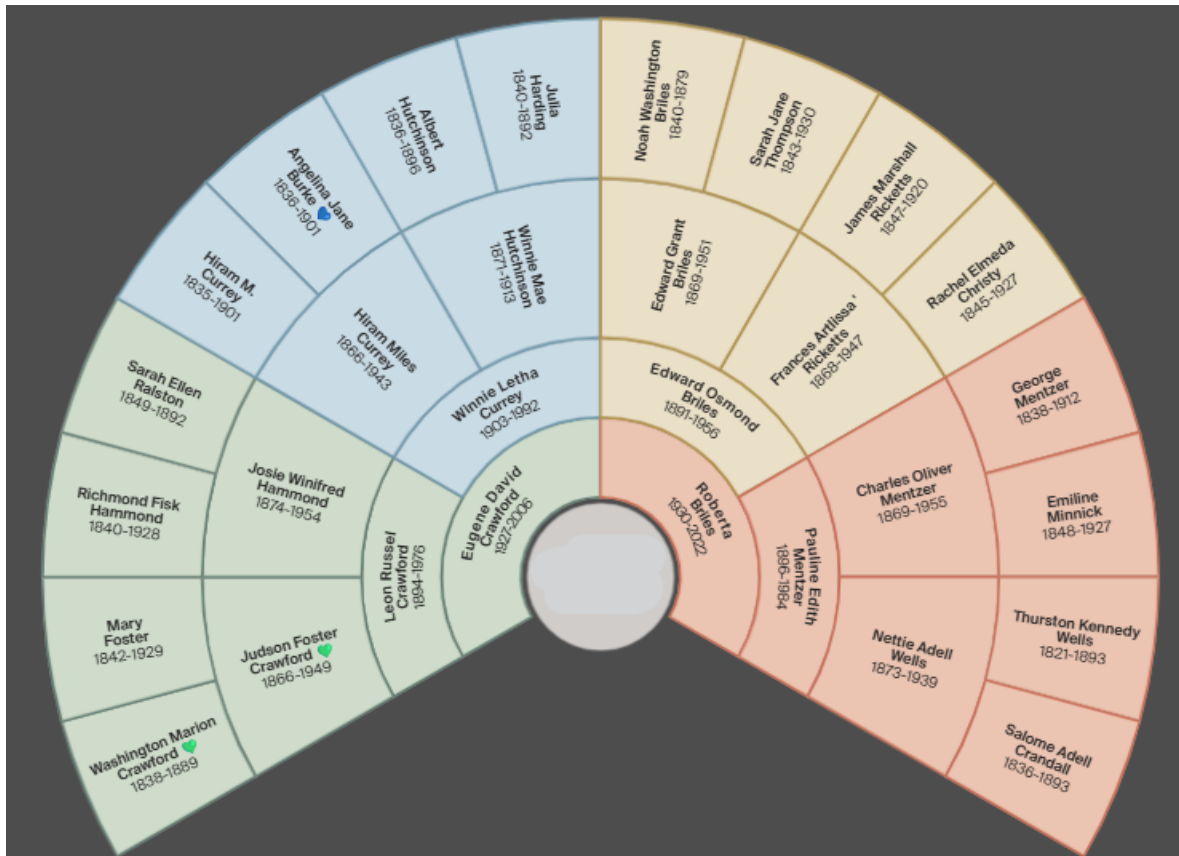
Calling all [Genea-Musings](#) Fans:

It's Saturday Night again –

Time for some more Genealogy Fun!!

Come on, everybody, join in and accept the mission and execute it with precision.

- 1) Marie Cooke Beckman on her blog, [MarieB's Genealogy Blog–Southeastern USA](#), asked and answered this question, and it is right up the SNGF alley: Did your grandparents know their grandparents? Thank you for the idea, Marie!
- 2) Tell us about your grandparents and their grandparents in your own blog post, in a comment on this post, or in a Facebook post. Please leave a link on this post if you write your own post.



Grandfather: Leon Crawford

- Knew his grandmother Mary Foster Crawford since she was living in Dodge City, where he grew up
- As a child, he likely knew his grandfather, Richmond Fisk Hammond, since Richmond was living in Dodge City in 1905

Grandmother: Winnie Currey

- Did not know any of her grandparents since they all died prior to her birth.

Grandfather: Edward Osmond Briles

- Likely knew his grandmother, Sarah Thompson Briles since she was living near the original Briles homestead in Coffey county.
- Likely knew his grandparents James Marshall Ricketts and his wife, Rachel since they were living in Liberty Township, Woodson County, Kansas in 1910. Edward Osmond Briles also lived in Liberty township in 1910.

Grandmother: Pauline Mentzer

- Pauline would have known her grandfather, George Mentzer, and likely attended his funeral when she was 16 years old.
- Pauline likely know her grandmother, Emiline Minnick Mentzer since they lived in the same county. Pauline was very close to her Mentzer cousins and passed down pictures of Emiline.
- Pauline would not have known her Wells grandparents since they died before she was born.

WW2 Newspaper Accounts

By Marcia Crawford Philbrick

February 18, 2025

[Nemaha County, World War II, WWII](https://heartlandgenealogy.org/2025/02/18/ww2-newspaper-accounts-4/)

<https://heartlandgenealogy.org/2025/02/18/ww2-newspaper-accounts-4/>



Have you used newspaper accounts to piece together someone's military service? The Nemaha County, Kansas, newspapers are a treasure trove of information, providing valuable insights into the lives and service of those who served in the military during World War II.

Today's clipping comes from the July 31, 1941 issue of the [Courier Tribune](#).

Their Tanks Are Boards The Army Simulates Armored Equipment

Venzle B. Skoch, Baileyville, has another interesting batch of letters from his son, Corp. Sylvester A. Skoch, who is with the Medical Detachment of the 752nd Tank Battalion at Ft. Lewis, Wash. Corp. Skoch's last note indicated he was soon to go to Denver to take a short course for a surgeon's assistant—commonly called a technician—at Fitzsimons General Hospital.

In a letter dated July 8th, Sylvester tells of leave to visit Albany, Oregon, where he met Diane Skoch and his wife, the former Edith Luckroth. Albany was having a celebration featuring feats of lumberjacks in a log-bucking contest, using logs three feet in diameter. Bobby Skoch, son of Franz and Edith, was the champion sawyer. He sawed his log in two minutes and 17 seconds.

"It was a seasoned log and hard," said Sylvester, "but that boy sure made the sawdust fly."

Another contest was in pole climbing, using 115-foot poles. The object was to climb the pole, hang a man on

the top, and beat the other fellow down.

“Log rolling is the big event of the sports,” says the Corporal. “A log 12 feet long, six inches in diameter, is peeled and made as smooth as a rolling pin. It is then placed in the lake. Each of two contestants wearing spiked shoes tries to dump the other by spinning the log with his feet. The sport takes a lot of good footwork, and in this event, a 12-year-old boy was the champion. I mean to say he was good! Stranger still, his teacher was a 16-year-old girl. She out-rolled him easily, but he had taken on the old lumbermen and won his title first.”

Franz and Edith, and family, are looking and doing well. They have a nice house at the edge of town with a good-sized garden. Franz is working in a door and window factory, operating a little machine which produces the strip which divides the window panes.

“We went to Silver Creek Falls for a picnic dinner. There are seven falls, the highest 170 feet. Large caves are worn out beneath the falls and of course, we went into them and watched the water spill in front of us. These mountain streams are clear as crystal, and when the sun is able to get through the pines and peaks, one can see the trout swimming. Believe me, the ‘Evergreen Playground,’ as Washington and Oregon are called, is really a most beautiful bit of country. These people really enjoy it too, and you can’t blame them. If these states advertised like California, they would put that state in the shade.”

Corp. Skoch writes again, July 18th, saying in part: “It’s getting terribly hot these days, and these woolen uniforms don’t help much. The humidity makes one notice the heat, and swimming is the only way to be comfortable. We go to American Lake, about 30 minutes’ walk. It has a lot of nice beaches and girls. What more could one want? At the enlisted men’s beach, we don’t have to wonder if a general is leering at us from ambush either.

“Was out on bivouac with two companies and was in charge of the first aid squad. The casualties were small, considering we were subjected to three gas attacks—mostly tear gas. It is used mostly to acquaint the men with gas before the time comes and to make them understand the necessity of getting their masks in place quickly.

“Our tanks are medium size, 20 tons, with a crew of four men each, driver, gunner, radio operator. It is impressive to see them go into action. But I hold a joker. Since Uncle Sam is having real tanks made for us, we hope that sometime the tank crew won’t have to carry a board to simulate a tank. Four men carrying a light board composed a tank on this campaign. That’s what we call real ingenuity in substituting for the galvanized gildings.

“Last week I arranged officers’ pay accounts which totaled well over \$10,000... Oh yes, the primer class which I am teaching. The boys are anxious to learn and that means a lot. I have five in my class. Full-grown men, not being able to read or write, seems almost impossible to us who take grade school education as a matter of course in Kansas.

“On bivouac the other night, we had mosquitoes, and boy, were they big! I heard two of them talking. One said to the other, ‘Shall we eat him here or carry him back to the swamp?’ Said the other as he licked his big, yellow teeth, ‘Let’s eat him here; if we carry him back to the swamp, the big one will take him away from us.’”

“...talking. One said to the other: ‘Shall we eat him here or carry him back to the swamp?’ Said the other as he licked his big, yellow teeth: ‘Let’s eat him here; if we carry him back to the swamp, the big one will take him away from us.’”

Correcting Tree

By Marcia Crawford Philbrick

February 19, 2025

[Bland, Missouri](#)

<https://heartlandgenealogy.org/2025/02/19/correcting-tree/>



Correcting Mistakes in the FamilySearch Tree

Do you work with the FamilySearch tree? If so, have you ever hesitated to correct information for a distant cousin?

I often avoid making changes to distant relatives, hoping that their closer family members will handle any necessary updates. Instead, I typically leave a note suggesting the correction. However, while researching the descendants of [Matthew Martin Bland](#) of Platte County, Missouri, I encountered a situation I couldn't ignore.

The FamilySearch tree listed [Evelyn B. Duncan](#), daughter of **Benjamin H. Duncan** and [Ethel Mae Baker](#), as having died in **2013** and being buried in **Virginia**. The source for this information was a [BillionGraves](#) record for an [Evelyn B. Duncan](#) born in 1915 and married to **Charles H. Duncan**. While the tombstone image might suggest a match, something didn't feel right.

Upon further investigation, I found a conflicting [Find a Grave](#) record. Unlike the BillionGraves entry, this one linked [Evelyn](#) to **Camden Point Cemetery**, where both of her parents are buried. This raised an important question: **Which record was correct?**

Thankfully, additional sources provided clarity.

- A **January 21, 1956** obituary from *The Kansas City Star* for **Mrs. Evelyn Allen** confirmed her **father was Ben H. Duncan**, aligning with the Find a Grave record.

Mrs. Ben H. Duncan.

Mrs. Ethel May Duncan, Dearborn, Platte County, died yesterday at the home. Surviving are her husband, Ben H. Duncan, and a daughter, Mrs. Evelyn Allen of the home; a sister, Mrs. Fred Eberling, Atchison, Kas., and a brother, James Baker, Leavenworth, Kas. Services will be at 2:30 o'clock Tuesday at the Wallace, Mo., Christian church. Burial will be at Camden Point, Mo.

- A search on **Ancestry** revealed a **Missouri Death Certificate** that further supported the **1956** death date and listed her parents as **Ben H. Duncan** and **Ethel M. Baker**.

Mo. 300
10-48

FILED FEB 17 1956

THE DIVISION OF HEALTH OF MISSOURI
STANDARD CERTIFICATE OF DEATH

State File No. 4572

BIRTH NO. REG. DIST. NO. 149 PRIMARY REG. DIST. NO. 1002 Registrar's No. 284

1. PLACE OF DEATH
a. COUNTY Jackson

2. USUAL RESIDENCE (Where deceased lived. If institution: residence before admission.)
a. STATE Missouri b. COUNTY Jackson

3. CITY (If outside corporate limits, write RURAL and give township) c. CITY OR TOWN Kansas City d. IN RESIDENCE WITHIN LIMITS OF CITY OR TOWN? ☒ YES ☐ NO

4. FULL NAME OF HOSPITAL OR INSTITUTION General Hospital No. 1 e. STREET ADDRESS 3029 Harrison f. CITY AND STATE OF FOREIGN COUNTRY

5. NAME OF DECEASED a. (First) Evelyn b. (Middle) B. c. (Last) Allen

6. DATE OF DEATH (Month) 1 (Day) 20 (Year) 1956

7. SEX F 8. COLOR OR RACE W 9. MARRIED, NEVER MARRIED, WIDOWED, DIVORCED, (Specify) DIVORCED 10. DATE OF BIRTH 9/16/1914 11. AGE (In years, months, days) 41 12. CITIZEN OF WHAT COUNTRY U.S.A.

13. FATHER'S NAME BEN H. DUNCAN 14. MOTHER'S MAIDEN NAME Ethel M. Gaiser 15. NAME OF HUSBAND OR WIFE Claude Allen

16. WAS DECEASED EVER IN U.S. ARMED FORCES? (Yes, no, or unknown) (If yes, give war or dates of service) NO 17. SOCIAL SECURITY NO. none 18. INFORMANT'S SIGNATURE OR NAME BEN H. DUNCAN, DEARBORN Mo. ADDRESS

19. CAUSE OF DEATH
Rater only one cause per line for (a), (b), and (c)
*This does not mean the mode of dying, such as heart failure, asthma, etc. It means the disease, injury, or complication which caused death.

20. MEDICAL CERTIFICATION
I. DISEASE OR CONDITION DIRECTLY LEADING TO DEATH* (a) Severe fatty metamorphosis of the liver with acute hepatic insufficiency due to acute and chronic alcoholism.
II. OTHER SIGNIFICANT CONDITIONS
Antecedent causes: Alcoholic conditions, if any, giving rise to the above cause (c) stating the underlying cause last.
Conditions contributing to the death but not related to the disease or condition causing death.

21. DATE OF OPERATION 22. MAJOR FINDINGS OF OPERATION 23. AUTOPSY? YES ☒ NO ☐

24. ACCIDENT SUICIDE HOMICIDE (Specify) 25. PLACE OF INJURY (a.g., in or about home, farm, factory, street, office bldg., etc.) 26. (CITY, TOWN, OR TOWNSHIP) (COUNTY) (STATE)

27. TIME OF INJURY (Month) (Day) (Year) (Hour) 28. INJURY OCCURRED WHILE AT WORK ☐ NOT WHILE AT WORK ☐ 29. HOW DID INJURY OCCUR?

30. I hereby certify that I attended the deceased from Jan. 19 1956, to Jan. 20 1956, that I last saw the deceased alive on Jan. 20 1956, and that death occurred at 1:37 P.M., from the causes and on the date stated above.

31. SIGNATURE B. I. BURTIS (Degree or title) M.D. 32. ADDRESS 24th & Cherry 33. DATE SIGNED 1-20-1956

34. BURIAL, CREMATION, REMOVAL (Specify) REMOVAL 35. DATE 1/21/56 36. NAME OF CEMETERY OR CREMATORY CAMDEN POINT 37. LOCATION (City, town, or county) (State) CAMDEN POINT Mo.

38. DATE REC'D BY LOCAL REG. 1-21-56 39. REGISTRAR'S SIGNATURE neva mindall 40. FUNERAL DIRECTOR'S SIGNATURE VAUGHN FUNERAL HOME DEARBORN Mo. ADDRESS

(Licensed Embalmer's Statement on Reverse Side)

WRITE PLAINLY—USING UNFADING BLACK INK—MAKE A PERMANENT RECORD

With multiple sources confirming the 1956 death date, I'm now updating the FamilySearch tree. I'll remove the incorrect BillionGraves source, add the obituary and death certificate, and correct Evelyn's burial location.

This experience is a reminder of the importance of verifying records and cross-referencing sources—especially when errors can lead future researchers down the wrong path. Have you ever encountered a similar situation in the FamilySearch tree?

Matthew Bland Descendants

By Marcia Crawford Philbrick

February 19, 2025

[Bland](#)

<https://heartlandgenealogy.org/2025/02/19/matthew-bland-descendants/>



Matthew Martin Bland [[MWFF-Q64](#)]; born: 5 December 1816, Kentucky, United States; died: 27 July 1878, Platte, Missouri, United States

+Mary Turner; born: 7 July 1825, Mays Lick, Mason, Kentucky, United States; marr: 24 December 1845, Platte City, Platte, Missouri, United States; died: 24 October 1904, Platte City, Platte, Missouri, United States

- 2-Sarah E. Bland; born: about 21 November 1846, Platte City, Platte, Missouri, United States; died: 27 October 1847, Platte City, Platte, Missouri, United States
- 2-Mary Bland; born: 24 May 1848, Missouri, United States; died: 5 January 1923, Weston, Platte, Missouri, United States
 - +James Monroe Baker; born: 18 April 1846, North Carolina, United States; marr: 27 February 1868, Platte City, Platte, Missouri, United States; died: 22 June 1930, Platte City, Platte, Missouri, United States
 - 3-James A. Baker; born: 1871, Platte, Missouri, United States; died: 1962, Missouri, United States
 - 3-Eugene Baker; born: 1874, Missouri, United States; died: 16 October 1916, Missouri, United States
 - 3-Birdie Augusta Baker; born: 1880, Weston, Platte, Missouri, United States; died: August 1970, Atchison, Atchison, Kansas, United States
 - +Frederick W "Fred" Everling; born: 14 January 1870, Portsmouth, Scioto, Ohio, United States; marr: 20 September 1908, El Paso, El Paso, Texas, United States; died: 12 April 1964, Atchison, Atchison, Kansas, United States
 - 4-Forestyne M Everling; born: 6 April 1910, Weston, Missouri, United States; died: 21 December 2004, Atchison, Kansas, United States

- 4-Mary Christine Everling; born: 16 December 1917, Weston, Platte, Missouri, United States; died: 28 January 1997, Platte, Missouri, United States
- 4-Bertie Lee Everling; born: 27 May 1919, Weston, Platte, Missouri, United States; died: 23 May 2006, Atchison, Atchison, Kansas, United States
- 3-Ethel Mae Baker; born: 6 September 1888, Atchison, Kansas, United States; died: 11 April 1954, Buchanan, Missouri, United States
 - +Benjamin Harrison Duncan; born: 20 February 1886, Platte, Missouri, United States; died: 7 January 1958, Buchanan, Missouri, United State
 - 4-Mary Lavinia Duncan; born: 22 June 1910, Fauquier, Virginia, United States; died: 5 October 1910
 - 4-Evelyn Beatrice Duncan; born: 16 September 1915, Missouri, United States; died: 20 January 1956, Kansas City, Jackson, Missouri, United States

2-Cynthia Bland; born: about 1849, Missouri, United States

2-Annie Bland; born: 8 January 1851; died: 22 February 1926, Platte City, Platte, Missouri, United States

- +Jacob Benner; born: 28 November 1846, Weston, Platte, Missouri, United States; marr: 3 March 1870, Platte City, Platte, Missouri, United States; died: 24 July 1927, Platte City, Platte, Missouri, United States
 - 3-John Benner; born: 28 November 1870, Missouri; died: 6 March 1899
 - 3-Lewis Benjamin Benner; born: 30 August 1872; died: 4 September 1946, Rochester, Olmsted, Minnesota, United States
 - +Clara Alma Moosman; born: 31 July 1881, Weston, Platte, Missouri, United States; marr: 10 February 1904, Weston, Platte, Missouri, United States; died: 7 December 1960, Weston, Platte, Missouri, United States
 - 4-Earl Benjamin Benner; born: 18 November 1910, Weston, Platte, Missouri, United States; died: 27 September 1994, Leavenworth, Leavenworth, Kansas, United States
 - 3-Alice Bertha Benner; born: March 1877, Platte, Missouri, United States; died: 7 May 1969, Liberty, Clay, Missouri, United States
 - +Samuel Milton Page; born: 25 August 1874, Rushville, Buchanan, Missouri, United States; marr: 15 February 1899, Weston, Platte, Missouri, United States; died: 18 February 1961, Liberty, Clay, Missouri, United States
 - 4-Beulah Page; born: 27 February 1901, Weston, Platte, Missouri, United States; died: 14 June 1992, Sabetha, Nemaha, Kansas, United States
 - 4-Clara Page; born: 19 March 1905, Weston, Platte, Missouri, United States; died: 1 October 1980
 - 4-Alice Christine Page; born: 8 August 1917, Missouri, United States; died: 31 July 1958, Liberty, Clay, Missouri, United States
 - 3-William H Benner; born: 8 January 1882, Missouri; died: 26 July 1906

2-William Henry Bland; born: about 1853; died: 1 January 1890, Platte City, Platte, Missouri, United States

2-John M. Bland; born: 12 October 1854, Missouri, United States; died: 29 January 1934, Platte City, Platte, Missouri, United States

- +Sophronia Bozarth; born: 12 April 1859, Taney, Missouri, United States; marr: 27 November 1887; died: 4 October 1934, Platte City, Platte, Missouri, United States
 - 3-Joseph Martin Bland; born: 22 October 1888, Platte City, Platte, Missouri, United States; died: 3 February 1891, Platte City, Platte, Missouri, United States
 - 3-Charles Smith Bland; born: 16 February 1890, Weston, Platte, Missouri, United States; died: 25 May 1954, Portland, Multnomah, Oregon, United States
 - +Minnie Manley; born: October 1886, Missouri, United States; died: 20 July 1965, Winston, Daviess, Missouri, United States
 - 4-Maurice Martin Bland; born: 1 January 1911, Weston, Platte, Missouri, United States; died: 16 September 1964, Winston, Daviess, Missouri, United States
 - 4-Betty Lee Bland; born: 26 August 1920, Kansas City, Jackson, Missouri, United States; died: 18 November 1998

- 3-Harry Lee Bland; born: 9 December 1891, Platte City, Platte, Missouri, United States; died: 2 November 1894, Platte City, Platte, Missouri, United States
- 3-Lena Bland; born: 1 August 1893, Platte, Platte County, Missouri, United States; died:
 - + _____ Currie
- 3-Mary Ann Bland; born: 7 July 1895; died: 28 October 1966, Kansas City, Jackson, Missouri, United States
 - +Joseph Arthur Unger Sr; born: 20 January 1896, Wyandotte, Kansas; marr: 25 November 1920, Jackson, Missouri, United States; died: 1 May 1979, Kansas City, Wyandotte, Kansas, United States
 - 4-Vivian Pauline Unger; born: 16 October 1924, Kansas City, Jackson, Missouri, United States; died: 20 February 2013, Shawnee, Johnson, Kansas, United States
 - 4-Joseph Arthur Unger Jr; born: 24 March 1930, Kansas City, Jackson, Missouri, United States; died: 12 March 2019, Lemay, St. Louis, Missouri, United States
 - 4-Carol Janet Unger; born: 22 January 1934, Kansas City, Missouri; died: 10 January 2000, Kansas City, Wyandotte, Kansas, United States
- 3-Bettie Blackburn Bland; born: 4 May 1897, Weston, Platte, Missouri; died: 25 December 1983
 - +Walter Benjamin Stephens; born: 24 July 1899, Weston, Platte, Missouri; died: 7 November 1953, Weston, Platte, Missouri, United States
 - 4-Monta Lee Stephens; born: 28 February 1922, Weston, Platte, Missouri, United States; died: 21 March 1996, Kansas City, Jackson, Missouri, United States
 - 4-Jack Walter Stephens; born: 11 October 1925, Kansas City, Cass, Missouri, United States; died: 22 December 2021, Saint Joseph, Buchanan, Missouri, United States

2-Benjamin Bland; born: 13 December 1857, Missouri, United States; died: 8 November 1860, Platte City, Platte, Missouri, United States

2-Matilda Bland; born: 13 November 1858, Missouri, United States; died: 2 August 1926, Colorado Springs, Garfield, Colorado, United States

- +William Brown; born: 12 June 1849, Rushville, Buchanan, Missouri, United States; marr: 1 June 1882, Platte City, Platte, Missouri, United States; died: 4 May 1929, St. Joseph, Buchanan, Missouri, United States
 - 3-Bonifant C. Brown; born: 11 May 1885; died: 22 October 1949, St. Joseph, Buchanan, Missouri, United States
 - 3-Annie E. Brown; born: 6 September 1887
 - 3-William F Brown; born: 28 January 1899, Weston, Platte, Missouri, United States; died: 24 January 1959, Jackson, Missouri, United States
 - +Alline _____; born: about 1900
 - 4-Minnie Brown; born: about 1922, Missouri
 - 4-Richard Brown; born: about 1923, Missouri
 - 4-Elizabeth L. Brown; born: about 1929
 - 4-Jessie Brown

2-Prillie E. Bland; born: 19 February 1860, Platte City, Platte, Missouri, United States; died: 19 September 1860, Platte City, Platte, Missouri, United States

2-Eller J. Bland; born: 10 July 1861; died: 21 November 1935, St. Joseph, Buchanan, Missouri, United States

- +Jefferson D. Turner; born: 5 August 1861, Round Prairie, Atchison, Kansas; marr: 1882; died: 12 November 1943, St. Joseph, Buchanan, Missouri, United States
 - 3-Nettie Ann Turner; born: 3 June 1883, Weston, Platte, Missouri, United States; died: 9 July 1964, St. Joseph, Buchanan, Missouri, United States
 - 3-Betty J. Turner; born: 1892, Weson, Platte, Missouri, United States; died: 31 July 1953, St. Joseph, Buchanan, Missouri, United States
 - +George C Snodgrass; born: 28 November 1880, Jackson, Missouri, United States; marr: 5 September 1922, Jackson, Missouri, United States; died: February 1947
 - 3-Lewis Turner; born: 21 January 1894, Weston, Missouri, United States; died: 23 June 1958, Wadsworth, Leavenworth, Kansas, United States
 - +Mary L. Hurt; born: 15 October 1906, Missouri, United States; died: 22 June 1971, St. Joseph, Buchanan, Missouri, United States

- o 3-William T Turner; born: 16 March 1898, Missouri, United States; died: 15 October 1962, St. Joseph, Buchanan, Missouri, United States
 - +Ruby L Bishop; marr: 30 August 1923, Maysville, DeKalb, Missouri, United States
 - 4-William Tallmadge Turner²⁷⁴; born: 18 April 1931, Kansas City, Jackson, Missouri, United States; died: 19 December 2015, Springfield, Greene County, Missouri, USA
 - 4-Beverly Ann Turner; born: 9 May 1935, Kansas City, Jackson, Missouri, United States; died: 3 February 1992, St. Louis (city), Missouri, United States
- o 3-Matthew Martin Turner; born: 8 June 1900, Weston, Platte, Missouri, United States; died: 7 September 1967, St. Joseph, Buchanan, Missouri, United States
 - +Margaret Elizabeth King; born: 10 June 1892, Bendena, Doniphan, Kansas, United States; died: 29 January 1965, St. Joseph, Buchanan, Missouri, United States
- o 3-Ruth Turner; born: 3 February 1904, St. Joseph, Buchanan, Missouri, United States; died: 20 July 1966, St. Joseph, Buchanan, Missouri, United States
 - +Mr William F. Collins; died: 23 July 1963, St. Joseph, Buchanan, Missouri, United States
 - +_____ Samuels
 - Betty J Samuels; born: about 1925, Missouri, United States

2-Robert L. Bland; born: 1 June 1870, Missouri, United States; died: 17 July 1932, St. Joseph, Buchanan, Missouri, United States

RootsMagic SQL

By Marcia Crawford Philbrick

February 20, 2025

[RootsMagic](#)

<https://heartlandgenealogy.org/2025/02/20/rootsmagic-sql/>



Using SQL to Manage Source Templates in RootsMagic

Have you ever considered what programming language your genealogy software uses? When I switched from *The Master Genealogist* to *RootsMagic*, one of the deciding factors was that RootsMagic utilizes SQL. Since I had experience using SQL to create reports in PowerSchool, this influenced my software choice.

Although I made the switch in 2016, it wasn't until recently that I began using scripts to make significant changes to my database. Thanks to Mr. Otter's well-written instructions, I successfully ran his *Switch Source Template* script. This allowed me to convert my **_EE_FamilySearch_COUNTY_RECORDS_online_images_FILM-Specific-website** template into a new format that properly supports angle brackets (<>) around image numbers.

With that change completed, I wondered whether I could safely delete the original source template. However, RootsMagic does not provide a built-in report to show which sources are linked to a particular template, leaving me unsure whether the old template was still in use.

To find a solution, I explored the [SQLite Tools for RootsMagic](#) website, where I discovered [SQL code designed to identify which sources are associated with specific source templates](#). Unfortunately, this code was written for an earlier version of RootsMagic. However, the comments on the page provided a key insight: both the *SourceTable* and the *SourceTemplateTable* contain a field named **TemplateID**.

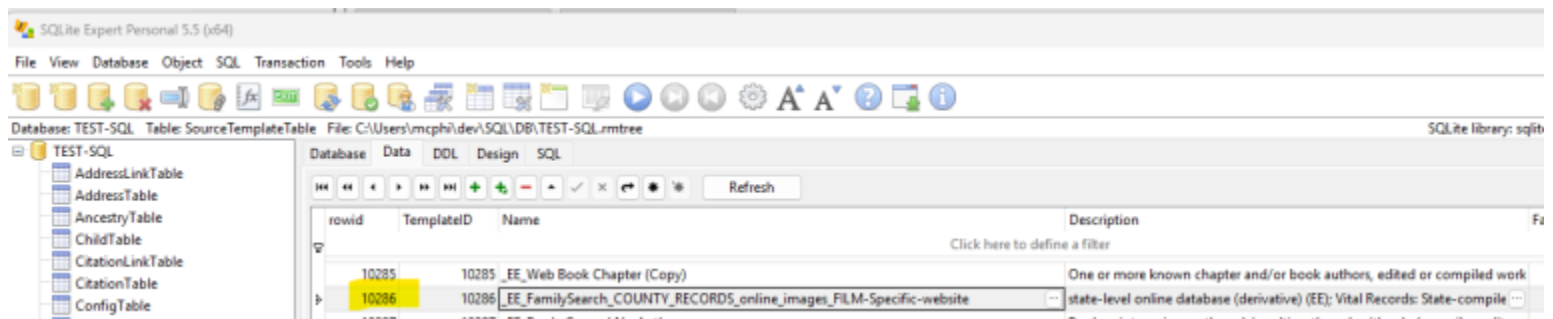
TemplateID, Pre- vs User-defined

15 February 2010 15:46:58

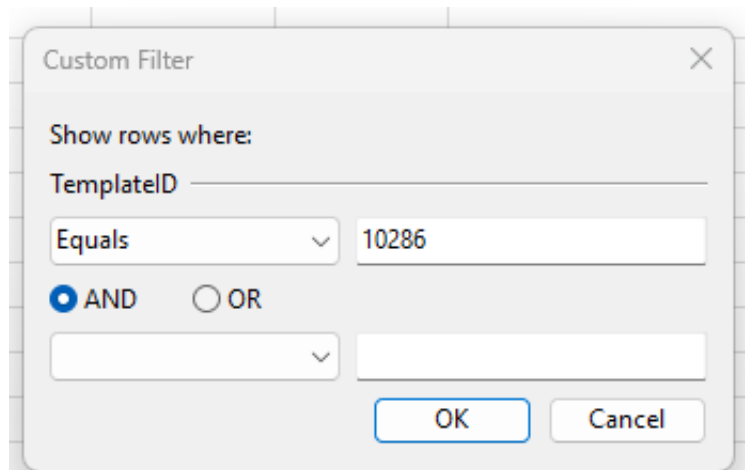
For those of us into the tables, adding a column for the TemplateID would be useful.

For reporting to others who are not, a column indicating whether the template is Pre-defined or User-defined could be useful. The TemplateID indicates that, any >9999 are user-defined.

Determined to find an answer, I turned to the *LEARN* tab on the SQLite Tools site and found another excellent [tutorial by Mr. Otter](#) on running SQL queries within a RootsMagic database. Following the tutorial, I accessed my database tables and located my original source template in the *SourceTemplateTable*. Its **TemplateID** was **10286**.



Next, I checked the *SourceTable* to see if any sources were still using that TemplateID. By default, the table displayed all sources, but I applied a **custom filter** to the *TemplateID* field to isolate results.



Since no sources appeared in the filtered list, I confirmed that the script successfully updated all affected sources. This means the original template is no longer in use and can be safely deleted.

Thanks to Mr. Otter and to everyone who has contributed to the SQLite Tools for RootsMagic for helping me query my RootsMagic file.

Friday Find

By Marcia Crawford Philbrick
February 21, 2025

[Kansas, Mentzer, Woodson County](https://heartlandgenealogy.org/2025/02/21/friday-find-74/)

<https://heartlandgenealogy.org/2025/02/21/friday-find-74/>



Friday Finds: Remembering Fred Mentzer

As I continue exploring the treasures within my genealogy files, I often come across newspaper clippings that provide invaluable insights into the lives of my ancestors. This week's **Friday Finds** features an obituary from the **27 May 1943 issue of the Yates Center News**, honoring the life of **Fred Mentzer (1871–1943)**.

Fred spent his life on the farm west of Yates Center, raising a family and embodying the values of hard work, faith, and dedication to his community. His obituary not only details his family connections but also offers a glimpse into his character and legacy.

I'm sharing this clipping on **Heartland Genealogy** so that fellow Mentzer family descendants and genealogy enthusiasts can appreciate and preserve this piece of our family history.

Obituary

Fred Mentzer

John Frederick Mentzer, son of George and Emmaline Mentzer, was born March 3, 1871, at Kewanee, Ill., and departed from this life May 17, 1943, at Johnson hospital, Chanute, Kans., at the age of 72 years, two months, and 14 days.

Soon after the Civil War, of which his father was a veteran, the family moved to Woodson county, locating west of Yates Center, where a farm was homesteaded.

Mr. Mentzer was united in marriage with Anna May Wells on March 27, 1895. To this union eight children were born—all of whom survive. Mrs. Mentzer passed away May 7, 1938.

The children are: Fred Mentzer, Mrs. Marjorie Weide, Mrs. Mildred VanValkenburg, and Mrs. Pearl Mentzer, all of Los Angeles, Calif.; Mrs. Wendell Tolle of Tulsa, Okla.; Mrs. Hazel Harold, Mrs. Cecil Beine, and Harley Mentzer of Yates Center.

Four brothers—Charles Mentzer of Emporia, Kans.; Ernest, Philip, and Henry Mentzer of Yates Center—and one sister, Mrs. Clara Williams, Yates Center. He also is survived by 19 grandchildren, 33 nieces and nephews.

A brother, Albert Mentzer, and one sister, Susan, preceded him in death.

Mr. Mentzer was a member of the official board of the Christian church, and his life culminates a life of Christian service.

He spent his entire life, after his marriage, on the farm west of Yates Center—the home he and his wife bought to begin life together. He had always enjoyed good health, hardly ever missing a day's work until his recent illness. In fact, his whole life was one of busy activity. No job was ever too great for him to attack, and he never stopped until the job was done. His life was a living example of justice and fair play, a simple faith in a great country—a living God, and eternal life was the hope that carried him through to the end.

Funeral services were held **Thursday afternoon, May 20**, from the Christian church, conducted by the pastor, **Rev. M. C. Good**. Burial was in the Yates Center cemetery.

WWI War News

By Marcia Crawford Philbrick
February 22, 2025

[Nemaha County, World War I, WWI](https://heartlandgenealogy.org/2025/02/22/wwi-war-news-8/)

<https://heartlandgenealogy.org/2025/02/22/wwi-war-news-8/>



Local Volunteers Depart for Military Service in World War I

As the United States mobilized for **World War I**, communities across the country saw their young men leave home to serve in various branches of the military. The **August 9, 1917** issue of the *Courier Democrat* highlighted the latest group of volunteers and draftees from **Nemaha County**, Kansas, as they departed for their respective training stations and assignments.

With **John Tyner** and **Harry Newton** awaiting their turn at the **Great Lakes Naval Training Station**, others boarded early morning trains for military units across the region. The article lists men assigned to artillery, infantry, and training camps, including **Cedric Routh**, **Luzerne Harvey**, **Edver Welborn**, and **Harry Myers**. Notably, **Earle Taylor of Seneca** was promoted to **sergeant**, tasked with ensuring that the Hiawatha recruits reached their destination safely.

This brief but poignant report reflects the **patriotism and duty** felt by local men as they prepared to serve in the war effort. It also provides insight into the impact of the draft and volunteer enlistment on small-town America during **the Great War**.

Only two volunteers are left in this community this week, **John Tyner** and **Harry Newton**, who are awaiting their turn at the **Great Lakes Naval Training Station**. The boys who left for their respective companies Saturday and Sunday were:

Cedric Routh, Headquarters Company, 1st Missouri Light Field Artillery; **Harry Myers**, Battery B, Third

Missouri; **Luzerne Harvey** and **Edver Welborn**, who are members of **Company B, Horton**; **Frank Winkler** and **Earl Henderson**, Battery B, Lawrence; **Edward Ochse**, **Carl Iles**, and **Albert Koelzer**, Company H, Lawrence; **George Andrews**, **Roy Benshoff**, **Elisha Britt**, **Orville Clowe**, **Robert Iles**, **Orville Largent**, **Albert Mars**, **Thomas Rudbeck**, **Earle Taylor**, and **Hubert Wiley**, all of **Company F, Hiawatha**.

Earle Taylor of Seneca has received the non-commissioned office of **sergeant** and was delegated to see that the Hiawatha boys got off on the early morning train Sunday. **Lon Britt** of Atchison is corporal.

Saturday Night Genealogy Fun

By Marcia Crawford Philbrick
February 23, 2025

[Currey, SaturdayNightGenealogyFun](https://heartlandgenealogy.org/2025/02/23/saturday-night-genealogy-fun-145/)

<https://heartlandgenealogy.org/2025/02/23/saturday-night-genealogy-fun-145/>

It's Time for More ...



Saturday Night Genealogy Fun!

Calling all [Genea-Musings](#) Fans:

It's Saturday Night again –

Time for some more Genealogy Fun!!

Come on, everybody, join in and accept the mission and execute it with precision.

1) Did one (or more) of your ancestors have a “different” occupation? If so, try to find out more about that occupation in [Steve Little's “Sam the Digital Archivist” custom prompt](#) using the free ChatGPT4 artificial intelligence tool. Click on the “Exploring unique ancestral occupations?” button and tell “Sam” in the “Ask anything” box to define and/or describe the occupation.

2) Tell us about your ancestor's “different” occupation, and what “Sam” had to say about it, in your own blog post, in a comment on this post, or in a Facebook post. Please leave a link on this post if you write your own post.

Prompt

My great grandfather, [Hiram M. Currey](#) resided in Delaware Township in Leaveworth county, Kansas in 1900. According to the census, [Hiram Currey](#) was a magnetic healer. What was he doing?

Response

Ah, yes—Hiram M. Currey, the **magnetic healer** of Delaware Township, Kansas! Sounds like your great-grandfather was dabbling in a fascinating (and, by today's standards, rather eyebrow-raising) form of alternative medicine that was all the rage in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

What Was Magnetic Healing?

Magnetic healing was a **pseudoscientific** practice based on the belief that a healer could channel “magnetic energy” into a patient to restore balance and cure ailments. Practitioners claimed they could manipulate a person’s **“vital force”** (sort of like an early version of Reiki) using either their hands or actual magnets.

This practice gained traction in the U.S. in the late 1800s, thanks to figures like **Franz Mesmer**, whose theories on “animal magnetism” led to mesmerism (yes, that’s where the word *mesmerize* comes from). By the time Hiram was in business, magnetic healing was being marketed as a cure for **everything from headaches to tuberculosis**—without the pesky need for surgery or medicine.

How Did Magnetic Healing Work?

In practice, a magnetic healer would:

1. **Lay hands on a patient**—sometimes moving them over the body without touching, other times pressing on certain areas.
2. **Use physical magnets**—applying them to the skin or waving them over “affected areas.”
3. **Claim to manipulate energy fields**—promising relief from pain, illness, or mental distress.

Magnetic Healing in Kansas

Hiram was in the right place at the right time. Kansas was a **hotspot** for alternative medicine in the late 19th century. Magnetic healers, herbalists, and osteopaths flourished, often positioning themselves as an alternative to mainstream doctors, who were still using **bloodletting and mercury treatments** (not exactly a great sales pitch for conventional medicine).

Fun fact: **Dr. Andrew Taylor Still, the founder of osteopathy, operated in Kansas and Missouri**, promoting hands-on healing techniques that had some overlap with magnetic healing. Many magnetic healers went on to become early chiropractors, as both fields believed in **“non-invasive” healing through touch and energy manipulation**.

So, Was Hiram a Real Doctor?

Eh... probably not by today’s medical standards. Magnetic healing was largely **unregulated**, meaning anyone with a persuasive personality and a decent marketing strategy could become a healer. That being said, plenty of folks swore by it, and if Hiram had a steady stream of patients, he was probably doing something right—placebo effect or not!

Follow Up Question

can you find business records or newspaper ads that mention Hiram Currey’s practice as a magnetic healer?

Response

Great question! Let’s go detective mode and see if we can track down **business records, newspaper ads, or directory listings** for Hiram M. Currey’s work as a **magnetic healer in Kansas** around 1900. Here’s how we can tackle this:

1. City & Business Directories

Many **business directories** in the late 19th and early 20th centuries listed alternative medical practitioners under sections like “**Magnetic Healers**” or “**Doctors (Miscellaneous)**”. The best places to check include:

- **Kansas State Gazetteers & Business Directories**
 - These sometimes list local healers and their addresses.
 - **Leavenworth County or Delaware Township Business Listings (circa 1890-1910)**
 - Kansas State Historical Society (KSHS) has business directories that might list him.
 - The **U.S. City Directories, 1822-1995** collection on **Ancestry.com** might have him, too.
-

2. Newspaper Advertisements & Mentions

Magnetic healers often **advertised in local newspapers** to attract clients. Here’s where we can search:

Top Kansas Newspaper Archives

- **Chronicling America (Library of Congress)** (<https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov>)
 - Free and covers many Kansas newspapers from 1789-1963.
- **Kansas Historical Society Digital Newspaper Collection** (<https://kansasmemory.org>)
 - Good for local Leavenworth County papers from Hiram’s era.
- **Newspapers.com** (Paid, but might have free access via a library)
 - Best for smaller, local Kansas papers where Hiram may have advertised his services.
- **GenealogyBank.com** (Also paid, but can be useful)

Possible Newspaper Titles to Search

- *Leavenworth Times*
 - *Kansas City Journal* (sometimes covered Leavenworth County)
 - *Topeka State Journal*
-

3. Medical Licensing & Alternative Healing Registrations

Kansas did not strictly regulate magnetic healers, but some **registered with local medical boards or applied for city business licenses**.

- **Leavenworth County Clerk’s Office** – May have business licenses if Hiram officially registered his practice.
 - **Kansas Board of Medical Examiners (early 1900s records)** – If he ever tried to transition into osteopathy or another licensed practice.
-

4. Genealogy & Public Records

If we find nothing in newspapers or directories, we can **cross-check census & probate records** for clues:

- **1900 U.S. Census** (which you already found) confirms his occupation.
- **1905 Kansas State Census** – Might also list his occupation, or note a career change.
- **Death Records & Obituaries** – Sometimes mention careers in detail.

Search of Directories

In 1903, Hiram Currey is listed under the city of Lansing in the Leavenworth City Directory. In that listing, his occupation is identifies as a TOPMAN. Below is the response received for a query about the career as a TOPMAN.

RESPONSE

Ah, so by 1903, your great-grandfather Hiram M. Currey had moved on from **magnetic healing** and taken up a new profession: **topman**. Sounds mysterious, right? Let's break it down.

What Was a Topman?

A **topman** was a worker who performed **dangerous, high-altitude jobs**—typically in **mining, construction, or telegraph/telephone line work**. Depending on the industry, a topman's job could include:

1. **Mining** – In mines, a topman worked **above ground** near the mine shaft, managing **hoisting operations**, signaling workers, and ensuring loads of ore or workers were safely transported in and out of the shaft.
2. **Construction** – In cities, topmen worked on **skyscrapers, bridges, and other tall structures**, handling materials and rigging at high elevations.
3. **Telegraph & Telephone** – Some topmen installed and maintained **telegraph and telephone lines**, climbing poles and securing wires.

Given that Lansing, Kansas, was home to **the Kansas State Penitentiary and various industrial operations**, it's likely that Hiram was working in either **mining or construction**—possibly tied to local limestone quarries or infrastructure projects.

What Happened to the Magnetic Healing?

Well, it looks like the **magnetic healing business didn't pan out long-term**. By the early 1900s, Kansas was cracking down on unlicensed medical practitioners, and **public trust in alternative medicine was shifting** toward regulated fields like osteopathy and chiropractic care. He may have had to pivot careers for economic or legal reasons.

Since the 1902 directory indicated that Hiram Curry was a miner, I'm going to conclude his job as a TOPMAN was related to mining.

SORA

I then asked SORA whether it could "create a featured image about a 1900 career as a magnetic healer?"

It expanded my prompt to the following: An illustration of a **magnetic healer in the 1900s**, dressed in a formal Victorian-era suit with a waistcoat, performing a healing session in a dimly lit parlor. The healer has his hands hovering over a reclining patient, who appears calm and in a trance-like state. The room is decorated with antique furniture, a wooden desk with old medical books, and soft candlelight creating a mystical atmosphere. A large, ornate mirror reflects the session, adding depth to the scene. The background features shelves lined with apothecary bottles and esoteric symbols on the walls, emphasizing the alternative healing practice. The color palette consists of warm sepia tones and deep shadows, enhancing the historical and mysterious mood.

Created Using: **realistic vintage illustration, engraved textures, soft chiaroscuro lighting, historical accuracy, warm sepia tones, Victorian-era aesthetics, high-definition quality, and natural look.** –ar 16:9

RESPONSE



Thank you Randy for this challenge to not only learn about occupations but also to learn to use a new AI tool!

Following Clues

By Marcia Crawford Philbrick

February 24, 2025

[Bland, Nemaha County](#)

<https://heartlandgenealogy.org/2025/02/24/following-clues/>



Have you ever followed a clue out of curiosity while researching a family tree for DNA purposes? Recently, I've been uncovering numerous BLAND cousins while tracing the descendants of my 4th great-grandfather, Eli Bland. To streamline the process, I've primarily relied on Ancestry's hints. However, an obituary for Charles Bland, my second cousin three times removed, led me down an unexpected research path.

According to the obituary published in the *Kansas City Times* on May 27, 1954, "Mr. Bland won the department distinguished service medal for gallant conduct on several occasions. One of these was the slaying of a bandit who earlier shot and killed George E. Lawson, Jr., a detective, who was attempting to arrest the bandit on a robbery charge."

Intrigued by this reference, I turned to Newspapers.com to see what more I could uncover about Charles Bland's career and heroism. My search led me to an article titled *The Five Men in the Police Department Who Hold the Police D.S.M.*, published in *The Kansas City Star* on September 16, 1919.



Charles Bland, acting sergeant of the vice squad. For his bravery in the capture of the Baileyville, Kas., bank bandits, after a desperate revolver fight September 5, 1919. It is Bland's second citation. In addition to the medal, Bland has received his promotion to a sergeantcy and a cash reward.

While the article confirmed Charles Bland's receipt of the Distinguished Service Medal, it also sparked my curiosity. Baileyville, Kansas, is a small town just five miles west of where I live, making this story feel surprisingly close to home. Eager to learn more about the bank bandits and Charles Bland's role in their capture, I decided to dig deeper.

My search led me to the *Courier Tribune* of Seneca, Kansas, where the September 11, 1919, issue featured an extensive article detailing the bank robbery.

BANK BANDITS AT BAILEYVILLE

TO BAD END IN KANSAS CITY

Held Up Bank at Point of Guns, Lock Men in Vault and Escape in Automobile.—Gang Broken in Kansas City.

"Boys, we've got it on you. Throw up your hands and look to the wall."

So saying three bank bandits

Stepped into the Baileyville State Bank Thursday morning at ten o'clock and pulled their guns on Assistant Cashier J. A. Heiman and Clerk Frank Winkler. It was the surprise of a lifetime. Nothing of the kind was dreamed of. Without parley the workers did as they were told. So did Ben Oiberding, a patron of the bank who was there at the time.

Once Frank Winkler, becoming curious, half turned his head. Instantly the muzzle of a big .45 was thrust against his side. "I may forget what those burglars looked like," Frank Winkler says, "but I never will forget that big .45."

Next came the business of locking the three men in the vault. This was accomplished without difficulty. The three men had never a chance at resistance. They knew that a false movement would cost life. Events at Kansas City later proved that they did just the right thing in following out orders.

From the vault the bandits secured a physician's instrument case that had been left there. They dumped its contents out and stuffed it with all the Liberty bonds, cash, and securities that they could readily lay their hands upon and made good their escape in a Buick car. Virgil Crumine, Ed Perrine, and George Griffiths saw them enter the bank and leave but thought nothing of it. They had no suspicions. The bandits were not masked and they supposed them patrons.

Will Broxterman came to the bank on business and heard the voices within the vault calling for help. He tried to release them by following their directions in working the combination but couldn't get it straight. Then W. I. Davis came in and succeeded in working it and the imprisoned men stepped out. They had been confined perhaps ten minutes but of course, it seemed ages.

The bandits were off like a streak. They drove north of town, turned west, and were thought to have been seen in Centralia. They headed directly for Kansas City evidently, for it was there the gang was broken up at 3:00 o'clock Friday morning. These bold, bad men didn't last long. Two of them are at the General Hospital, wounded in a fight with Kansas City's vice squad that had been assigned to duty looking for motor thieves. The K.C. police were not looking for bank bandits and just happened upon the Baileyville gang.

Continuing their Diamond Dick career, the bad men had no sooner hit K.C. when they stuck up a gambling den at 1209 Grand Avenue. Here they cut loose with those ugly guns, then turned on the Baileyville folks. Shot a man by the name of Fred Gardner who attempted to hide behind a radiator. He probably will die. There were six men about the poker table when the bandits entered. Made them lay their money out on the table and lined them up against the wall. Kicked Gardner's body that had fallen across some of the money out of the way and backed from the room.

The *Star* says: "It was the vice squad, on the lookout for motor thieves and other night prowlers, which fought with and caused the capture of two bank bandits. A week ago Charles Bland, acting sergeant of the vice squad, received orders at police headquarters to trans-

for the activities of his squad to the pursuit of motor thieves. **Early this morning Bland, George Burns and John Ford were driving about in a police car.** At Twelfth and McGee streets, they were stopped by the house detective of the Mercer hotel. He told of having heard shooting in the neighborhood.

The patrolmen drove to Thirteenth and Oak streets near where a Buick car was standing at the curb. Beside it was a young man.

"We stopped," said Bland, "and I asked him whose car it was."

"Mine," he answered. "We are driving through the country." Then he told me he lived in Atchison, Kan. We looked in the car and saw the suitcases."

When Bland demanded to see the contents of the suitcases the man, who later gave his name as Adams, said they were locked and the keys were in the house at 314 East Thirteenth street.

He offered to take the officers into the house for the keys, but before this Bland says he felt of Adams' clothing to determine whether he was armed. The search failed to reveal any weapon, although it developed Adams had a revolver. Probably it was concealed in a holster under one of the bandit's arms.

It was agreed that Bland should remain with the car while Burns and Ford went for the keys.

"We will have to go to the back door," said the stranger, and led the way with Burns.

As Burns and the bandit turned the corner of the house Burns saw the dark form of another man standing near the back door.

"I was suspicious," said Burns, "and drew my revolver."

"Put up your hands there," I called to the second man.

"Put up your hands or I'll blow you off," he returned and we began firing."

Ford seized a riot gun from the police car and rushed to Burns's assistance, firing as he went.

When Bland heard shots he left the two cars and went into the yard. The firing, he said, seemed to come from the interior of the house. He saw one of the bandits fire and fall. Then both Burns and Ford went down.

The second bandit ran into the alley at the approach of Bland, turning occasionally to fire. Bland followed and a battle was fought as the bandits ran north. With only one cartridge remaining in his revolver, Bland went back to where the wounded policemen lay. He says the first bandit had disappeared.

Ford was suffering intensely and himself wounded, Bland aided Ford to the police car. Residents of the neighborhood were gathering. It was believed the bandit who had fallen first in the encounter had entered the house, and Bland waited while Burns drove Ford to the General Hospital.

A fresh squad of police arrived a few minutes later and entered the house. In a room on the first floor, unclothed, lay Ed. Adams, wounded bandit. He was overwhelmed by superior numbers and surrendered.

A crowd stood near the house at the time of Adams' capture. It was said a man had been seen crawling through the weeds at Ninth and Oak streets and several policemen went there immediately. They found Harry Clayton, shot through the head and shoulder, lying among the weeds.

Had \$38,000 in Bonds.

A search of the car and its suitcases revealed \$28,100 in Liberty bonds, some of them in envelopes bearing the name of the Baileyville bank.

There were also a vial containing a liquid, believed to be nitroglycerin, three Winchester repeating rifles, one Remington pump gun, one .45 caliber automatic pistol, one .38 caliber revolver, three leather holsters and nearly two thousand rounds of ammunition for the rifles, pistols and shotgun. Another repeating rifle was found in the house and further examination of the car brought to light a first aid kit containing bandages and medical supplies.

About his body he wore a belt containing \$814 and three billbooks, which were identified by W. T. McCormick and L. E. ("Goldtooth") Maxie, gamblers, as taken from them in the gambling house. Maxie identified Adams as one of the men who held up the game.

The bandit Clayton, alias Cladden, alias Cassity, is about 32 years old, with light complexion and blue eyes. Adams is 34 and is of dark complexion and has brown eyes. It is not thought either is dangerously wounded but both were greatly fatigued as they naturally would be after their wild experiences. They do not talk much.

Finding the goods on the bandits makes it seem almost certain that they will go over the route. If the Kansas City men they shot die they will without question be held for murder there. It will depend on

(continued on Last Page.)

BANK BANDITS AT BAILEYVILLE

(Continued from fourth page.)

events and they will be tried where the authorities think they have the best case.

Recover the Loot.

The Baileyville State Bank will lose nothing by the hold-up. It has membership in a protective agency and

this will cover any shortage of cash. But the greater amount taken was in bonds and negotiable notes and these Gov. Bailey and Asst. Cashier Heiman had no difficulty in identifying. The *Star* of Sunday says:

"Government bonds and securities totaling \$81,740, representing nearly the entire loot stolen by bandits from the State Bank of Baileyville, Kas., Thursday, were recovered by the Kansas City police after the spectacular revolver battle with a robber band early Friday at 314 East Thirteenth street.

The bonds, found in suitcases in a stolen motor car, were returned to officials of the Baileyville bank late yesterday.

"Willis J. Bailey, president of the bank, late yesterday afternoon identified all the bonds found by the police in the possession of Adams and Clayton. After the robbery officials of the bank, in order to prevent alarm among depositors, gave out the report that only \$1,000 in bonds had been stolen. Ex-Governor Bailey was so gratified at the recovery of nearly the entire loot that he gave Chief of Police Scott A. Godley a personal check for \$200 to be given the officers responsible for the capture of the bandits. In addition, the State Bankers' Association of Kansas will pay a reward of between \$1,000 and \$1,500 for the conviction of the guilty desperadoes."

Mr. Heiman Knew Clayton.

One of the happiest things about the fortunate circumstances surrounding the capture of the bad men is that Mr. Heiman is able to identify at least one of the bandits. He must have had his wits about him when they stuck him up. The *Star* says again:

"Harry Clayton, one of the three bandits who held up a poker game in a gambling house at 1209 Grand Avenue early Thursday night, probably fatally wounding one of the players, and an hour later was wounded and captured by the police, was identified positively late yesterday as one of the trio who robbed the Baileyville bank. Identification was made by J. A. Heiman, cashier of the bank, who was in the bank at the time of the robbery."

Uncertain as to Adams.

Edward Adams, the other bandit captured, was not identified positively by Heiman. Adams, with bullet holes in his head and body, is wrapped in bandages at the General Hospital. Heiman said he couldn't identify or exonerate Adams because of difficulty in seeing his face, but that he believed Adams resembled one of the three men who held up the bank. Adams and Clayton are in the city hospital under guard. Clayton was shot in the shoulder.

To Bring Bandits Here?

There is some question whether the bandits will be brought before the Nemaha bar for trial or not. **If the Kansas City men die it is likely they will be tried for murder.** But if it is believed that a heavier sentence can be had under the Kansas laws for bank thieves it is believed that the Missouri officials can be induced to allow Nemaha county prosecute them. The third bandit may be found but it is not probable. No one believes that the two would have been detected had not the K. C. police just blundered upon them.

believe that the gang is responsible for the frequent Kansas robberies that have been pulled this summer. In the event that the bandits are tried in Nemaha county the State Bankers' Association has engaged S. M. Brewster to assist County Attorney R. M. Emery, Jr.

One Victim Dies.

Fred Gardner, the gambler who was shot at the Grand Avenue joint, died Monday. The Monday *Star* said that Ford, the patrolman, is still in a critical condition as is Clayton, the bandit. It grows more likely that Clayton and Adams will be brought to Nemaha county for trial. County Attorney R. M. Emery, Jr. and Sheriff Charles Carman went to Kansas City Tuesday and they will bend every effort to have the criminals brought to Nemaha county for trial. Mr. Emery said Tuesday that he does not think there will be any difficulty in identifying them as the men who robbed the Baileyville bank. Mr. Heiman recognized one of them in Kansas

City and no doubt could have identified the other had it not been for the thick bandages in which he was swathed.

On the other hand, Edward J. Curtin, county prosecutor at Kansas City thinks that there is insufficient evidence at hand to assure their conviction on a murder charge. Everyone knows how it is in those Kansas City gambling house murders. It is almost impossible to get anyone to testify against a bad man for he entertains lively fears that someone will “get him” for giving the criminal away. There is no fear of that sort of thing out here in Kansas. When these men are brought to Nemaha county, witnesses will identify them if they recognize them and they will get all that Judge Stuart’s court can give. There is no crooked black-hand politics in old Nemaha.

Then too, Mr. Emery wants them brought here to be tried for bank banditry for the salutary effect it will have on other bank robbers. He says that bank hold-ups are becoming all too common in Kansas and that the interests of large numbers of people who use banks must be protected. Mr. Emery and Mr. Carman may not return before Thursday and it is impossible for *The Courier-Tribune* to say when this paper is issued what the outcome will be.

Conclusion

What started as a simple obituary for Charles Bland quickly unraveled into a gripping story of crime, justice, and historical intrigue. The obituary’s mention of Bland’s distinguished service medal for gallantry hinted at a dramatic past—one that led to the discovery of his role in the capture of bank robbers involved in the Baileyville State Bank heist.

Following the clues from his obituary, the search unearthed newspaper accounts detailing a high-stakes robbery, a deadly shootout, and the relentless pursuit of justice across state lines. The articles not only shed light on the criminals—Clayton and Adams—but also highlighted the bravery of law enforcement officers like Bland, whose actions ensured these bandits were brought to justice.

This journey from obituary to crime reports serves as a testament to the power of historical research. It reminds us that behind every name in a newspaper, there is a story waiting to be told—sometimes one far more dramatic than we could have imagined. Through these discoveries, we not only honor Charles Bland’s legacy but also gain a deeper understanding of the turbulent times in which he served.

WW2 News

By Marcia Crawford Philbrick
February 25, 2025

[Nemaha County, World War II, WWII](https://heartlandgenealogy.org/2025/02/25/ww2-news/)

<https://heartlandgenealogy.org/2025/02/25/ww2-news/>



News from Nemaha County Servicemen – August 1941

As the United States edged closer to full-scale involvement in **World War II**, young men from **Nemaha County, Kansas**, were already stepping up to serve in various branches of the military. The [August 4, 1941](#) issue of the *Courier Tribune* featured updates on local men reporting for **army induction, training, and assignments**, offering the community a glimpse into the journeys of their sons, brothers, and friends.

Among the latest inductees were **Leander Feldkamp, John Kreutzman, and Lawrence Sigmund**, who departed from Seneca to report for duty at **Fort Leavenworth**. Meanwhile, **Wilbur Moore**, who had registered for selective service in Kansas but was living in Wisconsin, had his induction transferred to **Oconomowoc**, aligning him with a new group of recruits. The **Nemaha County draft board** also announced that more men would be called for service later in the month.

In addition to new recruits, local soldiers in training were making the most of their time on the East Coast. **Joseph Hunninghake and Henry Holthaus**, stationed at the **Engineer Training Replacement Center at Fort Belvoir, Virginia**, were preparing for a special visit to **Washington, D.C.**, where they hoped to see the **President of the United States**.

These updates provided families and friends with vital information on the movements and milestones of their loved ones in uniform. As the world stood on the brink of war, these brief newspaper reports helped keep the **spirit of community and patriotism alive in small-town America**.

U. S. Service News

Three to Army From—Seneca Last Friday

Leander Feldkamp, Vermillion address, John Kreutzman of Baileyville and Lawrence Sigmund, Wetmore, left Seneca by bus Friday to report for army induction at Ft. Leavenworth.

Wilbur Moore, who registered for selective service in this county and now is in Wisconsin, has been transferred to Oconomowoc for induction. This means he will go with the next group inducted from the local board in his area. He may already be called for induction.

The Nemaha draft board has advance information that five more men are to be called for the 25th of the month. The official call has not been received.

Joseph Hunninghake and Henry Holthaus, in Engineer training replacement center at **Fort Belvoir, Va.**, expected to go to **Washington, D.C.** Sunday and see the President. Fort Belvoir is **15 miles from Washington.**

RootsTech2025

By Marcia Crawford Philbrick
February 27, 2025

[RootsTech](#)

<https://heartlandgenealogy.org/2025/02/27/rootstech2025/>



What's in Store at [RootsTech 2025](#)?

Extensive Session Lineup

- **350+ Sessions:** Over 180 sessions are available online, plus access to an extensive video library from previous years.
- **Diverse Participation:** Whether you're on-site or at home, there are plenty of ways to engage with the content.

Relatives at RootsTech

By [registering for RootsTech 2025](#), you also gain access to the [Relatives at RootsTech](#) feature. This innovative tool compares your connections on the FamilySearch tree with other registrants, making it easy to identify and connect with cousins. With more than 255,000 participants, it's common to discover that you share connections with over 30,000 others. This feature is available until April 12, 2025.

Vendor Engagement

- **In-Person & Virtual:** While in-person attendees can explore vendor booths in the exhibit hall, virtual participants can visit a dedicated online exhibit hall.
- **Exclusive Offers:** In previous years, some vendors extended special offers to virtual attendees—be sure to check out your favorites!
- **Exciting Announcements:** Several vendors will unveil major updates during the conference. Make sure to add both vendor-sponsored sessions (for example, those by Ancestry) and General Sessions to your schedule.

Session Handouts

Virtual attendees have enjoyed access to session handouts in past conferences. At the start of the event, review the list of in-person sessions related to your favorite topics or speakers and look for available handout links.

YouTube Videos & Blogging

FamilySearch, various vendors, and genealogy bloggers will be posting videos on YouTube. While there's already plenty of content available from February, expect even more videos to be shared during the conference.

Making Connections

- **Chat & Network:** Engage with fellow attendees via the RootsTech site and connect with #NotAtRootsTech participants on BlueSky.
- **RootsTech Feed on BlueSky:** Daniel Loftus (@danielloftus.projectinfant.ie) has created a dedicated RootsTech feed that you can pin to your home screen. After pinning it, you might need to adjust your feed settings—look for the # symbol (upper right on your phone or along the left on a computer) to open your list of feeds, then click the settings icon (the wheel) to rearrange them.



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RootsTech

By [@danielloftus.projectinfant.ie](https://danielloftus.projectinfant.ie)



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- **RootsTech Ride Along on Substack:** Another option is the Substack newsletter “RootsTech Ride Along.” Even if you’re new to Substack, this ride-along experience offers a great opportunity to explore the platform and stay updated on conference highlights.



How We Might Collaborate at RootsTech

As I shared earlier, I could see the benefit of connecting the folks on-site with a remote “bunny-slipper brigade”² following along from home. I **proposed** **Substack Live** sessions, if we could manage it, so that the folks at the show floor could readily connect with the remote crew.

With updates and a chance to chat, we can help each other with news, dates, quick research, and pointers. Quick and easy. Like my Sunday **Projectkin Live** program, I’ll polish and share the recordings. **Robin Stewart** and I will capture and circulate those recordings across our multiple substacks. (*Tip: It’s a little tricky.*)

Step 1: Register for RootsTech

So, to get this started, there are just two steps. First, if you haven’t already,

CONTENTS

Family History is a Team Sport.

How We Might Collaborate at ...

How this works with Substack

About RootsTech from the C...

Friday Find

By Marcia Crawford Philbrick
February 28, 2025

[Kansas, Mentzer, Woodson County](#)

<https://heartlandgenealogy.org/2025/02/28/friday-find-75/>



In 2018, I shared the story of [Pfc. Lovell J. Mentzer](#), a young soldier from Yates Center, Kansas, who lost his life in World War II. His sacrifice, like that of so many others, is a poignant reminder of the cost of war.

For today's **Friday Finds**, I'm revisiting Lovell's story with two significant pieces from my genealogy collection: his **funeral card**, which commemorates the service held in his honor, and a **newspaper clipping** from *The Manhattan Mercury* listing him among the fallen in the European theater.

These artifacts provide a glimpse into how his community remembered him, honoring his bravery and ultimate sacrifice. I hope sharing them here preserves his legacy and connects family members and researchers to this piece of history.

ARMY DEAD—European Regions (as published in 24 May 1945 issue of The Mercury in Manhattan, KS)

- McCrey, Howard A., T5, Topeka.
- Mentzer, Lovell J., Pfc., Yates Center.
- Rankin, Lafe A., Pvt., Kansas City.
- Schuvie, Adolph G., T5, Hays.
- Strickland, Jonas D., S/Sgt., Sawyer.
- Yelley, Richard G., Pvt., El Dorado.

PFC LOVELL J. MENTZER

United States Infantry

Son Of
E.E. and Edith M. Mentzer

Born January 21, 1926
At Yates Center, Kansas

Enlisted June 6, 1944

Killed in Action April 19, 1945

"Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends."

Handwritten Note:

Meet at the Home at 2:00 P.M.

